

"Negro Stampede—\$2,650 Reward,"

LaGrange (MO) *National American*, November 12, 1859

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Negro Stampede—\$2,650 Reward.
Last Monday night, ten negroes decamped from this city, five males and five females—two of the latter are small children, the eldest not being over ten years. They were all likely, intelligent and valuable slaves, with one exception, and that an old and decrepid female. They belonged to seven different persons. Large hand bills have been issued by the parties owning the slaves, in which full descriptions of their persons are given, and the total rewards offered, foots up to the munificent sum of \$2,650. Great exertions have been made for their recovery, but up to the time of our going press, no clue to their whereabouts or the direction which they had taken, had been obtained. It is supposed they crossed the river, and that they were caught afloat at or near Quincy. If these fugitives succeed in making a permanent escape, it will be the third or fourth successful stampede that has taken place from LaGrange in the past three or four months. This fact leads us to the conclusion that there is a regular under ground railroad established in this place to Chicago, Ills., and that the company have an agent or agents in this city. It is our belief that an abolitionist conductor accompanied the last party of slaves, and that this underground road forms a connection with the Quincy & Chicago R. R. While this state of things exist no

slave-holder is safe in the possession of his slave-party, however much confidence he may impose on his servants. Every human being loves liberty, when it is pictured to the slave with all the wily influence of the fanatical abolitionist, he like the patriot of the Revolution, will leave home and kindred and all those pleasant associations by which he is surrounded here even as a slave, and go in search of liberty and freedom. It is no use denying it, the love of liberty is an innate principle that exists even among the beasts of the field. The more intelligent slave becomes the greater his thirst for freedom, the stronger will become his protestations of attachment and love for his master, that he may thereby obtain greater confidence and secure more opportunities for acquiring that knowledge and intelligence so necessary for the accomplishment of the desired end—his *perfect freedom* by escape to Canada and when the favorable moment arrives, assisted by the white abolitionist he takes his flight, forgetting all obligations and gratitude which he owes to his kind and indulgent master. We do not wish by these remarks to get up a panic among slave-holders, or to lessen in the least degree the confidence now existing between master and slave; but we desire to warn the slave-holder to be more vigilant and caution him to be less indulgent, for the day will stare him in the face, that it is those slaves that have been the best treated and have had pretty much their own way, that have escaped.