

WILLIAM CRAFT, who next presented himself, with his wife, was received with rapturous applause. He also apologised for his inability to express himself in such a manner as he could have wished, but hoped his excuse would be found in the circumstance, that it was only two years since he had made his escape from Slavery, at which time he could neither read nor write, having been "raised" in a State where the laws prohibited the slave from being taught. They had already heard the nature of the infamous Fugitive Bill explained; and perhaps it might be interesting to the meeting if he were to furnish some particulars of the escape of himself and wife from Slavery. Mr. Craft then proceeded to relate the circumstances which, divested of extraneous matter, may be briefly stated.— His wife and he were slaves on an estate in Georgia one of the most cruel slave states in the Union. By dint of working early and late, he had saved some money and his wife and he frequently revolved plans of escape, many of which they were obliged to reject as impracticable. At length he persuaded his wife that the best way would be for her to dress herself in male attire, and pass herself off as a white gentleman, which from her color, was not difficult, while he would wait on her as her servant. To accomplish their undertaking, it was necessary that leave should be obtained for a day or two, which was done by a representation to their master that they had a sick aunt, at a distance, who wished to see them. They were successful in getting away, and dressed as had been previously arranged, with a large poultice on her hand, her arm in a sling, and another poultice round her cheeks, to look the

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invalid, they took their passage in the boat to Georgia, which was about 200 miles from where they resided. They reached Charleston on the following morning, and put up at one of the first-class hotels, his wife, still disguised, receiving every attention from the landlord and waiters, not the least suspicion being excited. They got safe away from Charleston, and had a rather amusing adventure in one of the railway cars, between Philadelphia and Richmond, with an old gentleman, accompanied by two of his daughters, who entered into conversation with the pretended sick young gentlemen. The ladies in particular were remarkably attentive; and while she feigned to be asleep, expressed a very favorable opinion as to her personal appearance.— Before parting, the old gentleman gave Mrs. Craft a very pressing invitation to visit him the next time she was passing through the Country. So far all had went well, but on reaching the Custom house, previous to embarking for Baltimore, the fugitives made a rather narrow escape, as the officer there would not allow the sick man to pass without affixing his signature to the usual document required of passengers, and as neither of them could write, the matter seemed hopeless. The invalid pointed to the large poultice that was still round his right hand, and urged on the officer to sign it for him; but the functionary had resolutely declined, when the captain of the steamer in which they were to embark good-naturedly offered to write the signature, which was allowed by the officer, and the husband and wife were again at liberty to proceed.—

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At Baltimore, another unexpected difficulty presented itself—Baltimore being in a slave State, and close to the free State of Pennsylvania there was a very sharp look-out kept that no slaves left Baltimore unchallenged. The officer in charge refused to allow the fugitives to pass, unless the disguised gentleman got a certificate endorsed that his attendant was his lawful slave. There was no possibility of getting such a certificate, and their escape seemed hopeless when the officer relenting at the apparently feeble state of health of the young man, allowed them to pass on. They arrived all safe at Philadelphia, where they were recommended to go on to Boston. In the latter city they had been two years, the husband supporting himself comfortably as a cabinet-maker, and his wife by her needle, till the passing of the Fugitive Slave Bill compelled them to flee from the country and take refuge in Great Britain. The narrative was listened to with great interest, and repeatedly applauded throughout.

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