

ever it ran. The case of these two women aroused the spirit of war.

"The escaped servants belonging to Mr. S. F. Nuckolls have been heard from", says the News of December 4th, 1858. "They are known to have been enticed away by a white-livered abolitionist, and have been concealed among their abolition friends in the little abolition hole of Civil Bend, about eight miles from Nebraska City on the Iowa side." ('Tis Percival, an't please you.) "About seventy-five men went across yesterday determined to get the negroes. If we should hear of some fighting and some fun we shouldn't be surprised."

Three weeks later we have the result of this relief expedition. "A party started in pursuit and after scouring a few nigger holes started the game and the prospect seemed fair to bag it. But unfortunately, the trail was again lost, and the party returned. A meeting of the black scamps was held at Tabor the other day, and a resolution passed to run off all the negroes at Nebraska City and then sack the place."

The warlike inhabitants of Tabor seem to have changed their minds, however, for there is no mention in the annals of Nebraska City of its having been sacked at this time.

A year later, or November 28th, 1859, as recorded in the Press of December 22nd, suit was commenced before the district court by Hon. Stephen F. Nuckolls against Reuben S. Williams and fourteen other persons, for \$10,000 damages and costs. The catalogue of wrongs occupies some two columns; among other charges it is recited that "well knowing the said Celia and Eliza to be the property and slaves of the said plaintiff as aforesaid, (they) contrived unlawfully to injure the said plaintiff and deprive him of all his property in and to said slaves Celia and Eliza," and so forth. This case was followed up with bitterness, and lasted long, but it had to be fought in Iowa, and it is said that the plaintiff was worsted in every encounter. The writer has not seen the records.

It is another year before we hear further of these erring chattels, and in the meantime other influences had been at work, and the soothing balm of tears had we may hope, washed away the rancor the Nebraska City heart had borne against the intemperate reformers of Tabor.

"We understand," says the editor, "that the next novelty to be produced is the great moral and domestic drama of 'Uncle Tom's Cabin, or Life Among the Lowly,' which is to be presented in the highest style of art. * * * * The gentle 'Eva' will be personated by a young Miss of this city."

That fall Mr. Nuckolls located a part of his missing property in Chicago, and went thither to get it. It is intimated, however, that he found the goods

damaged, so that perhaps he was not over keen to have his own way in the matter, save for the principle of the thing. Northerners may perhaps believe this more readily now than those of forty years ago would do, because they really know the breed better. There was a notable disturbance in Chicago. The story reached Nebraska City, and the editor of the News wheels out his battle-bell with dreadful din. "The combat deepens—on ye brave!" is his war whoop. The woman Eliza was arrested by a U. S. marshal and lodged in the armory. Great excitement ensued. "The streets in the vicinity are crowded," says a Chicago paper of November 12th, "with negroes and some white persons in a high state of excitement, who declare their intentions to prevent the woman's being taken away from this city."

It was into the hands of this mob that Mr. Nuckolls fell, and it might have gone hard with him, but that Mr. Joy, seeing the commotion by accident, and recognizing Nuckolls from having seen him in Nebraska City, slipped him into a place of refuge; from which he afterward arranged his escape, furnishing him with a false beard and some such accessories.

"They take her from an officer of the government," says the News, "and send her kiting to Canada to finish her existence in a house of ill fame."

"And this is abolition!"

Meantime there had been another episode. We quote from the News of June 30th, 1860. "On Thursday night three females of ebony complexion, one crippled ditto dark, and two boys with ivory teeth and impish faces, came to the sage conclusion that they preferred nakedness and starvation in Canada to rice puddings, jell cakes, and slap jacks in the comfortable and luxurious mansion of our worthy citizen and townsman, Alexander Majors (south-west corner Ninth street and First Corso). We can hardly believe that our city is infected with such misguided philanthropists as nigger thieves and abolitionists—the worst possible enemy a good negro can have. This dirty work is doubtless left for the nasty abolitionists of Civil Bend and Tabor. (So little Eva has died in vain.) * * A reward of \$1,000 is offered for the apprehension and recovery of the fugitives."

What the rest of this story may have been deponent saith not. The negroes were never recovered; the days of slavery were already numbered. But right here are found two strange occurrences, which stand upon the records in the Otoe county court house to this day, and look very much like bravado, in view of the often repeated and strongly insisted-upon doctrine, that slaves brought into Nebraska became *ipso facto* free men. They can in any

case not be supposed to have done Nebraska City any good politically.

Among the taxable property returned by the county assessor in 1860 appear the following items:

C. F. Holly, two negroes,	-	\$1,000
E. A. DesLondes, two negroes,		1,000
R. M. Kirkham, one negro,	-	500
A. Majors, (number not returned.)		

This constitutes one event; the other is the sale of two slaves by public auction at the door of the court house. The notice of the sheriff's sale, as advertised in the News of November 24, 1860, reads in part as follows: "By virtue of an execution from the clerk of the district court of Otoe county, Nebraska territory, against the goods and chattels of Charles F. Holly, I will offer at public sale, to the highest and best bidder, on the fifth day of December, A. D., 1860, between the hours of 10 o'clock a. m. and 3 o'clock p. m., all the right, title and interest of the said defendant in and to the following described property, viz:

One negro man and one negro woman, known as Hercules and Martha.

* * * *

WM. P. BIRCHFIELD, Sheriff."

This property was so sold accordingly, and the sheriff's returns show that he first put up the negro man Hercules, and there being no bidders, he next put up the bunch, for which \$300 dollars was bid by W. B. Hail; and there being no other bids the goods were declared sold to said Hail, who was the plaintiff in the suit against Holly.

All this while Omaha was living virtuously. Douglas county had only 916 school children in 1860, against 1240 in Otoe county, but they were not selling any slaves there; and it seems a very natural supposition that this consideration may have had a good deal of weight in Washington, in determining the future of the infant territory.

After the Civil war the negro named "Shade" who was run off from the premises of Mr. Nuckolls materialized as a leading legislator in the state of Alabama, where as a member of the house of representatives he became quite conspicuous.

A. T. RICHARDSON.

OBSERVATIONS BY AN INVALID.

MY DEAR CONSERVATIVE:

As you were not here during the summer when I was so fortunate as to have an observation hive of bees in my room window, I will try to give you some idea of the delights of such companionship.

The sides are glass, thus giving an opportunity of observing all that goes on in the interior of the hive. A narrow board was securely screwed on the window sill for the window to shut upon. There was a hole in this board just large enough for the extension of the bottom