

United States.

ILLEGAL SEIZURE OF STEPHENSON IN GEORGIA
AND HIS RECEPTION IN NEW YORK.

London itself has not been the scene of greater excitement on account of this individual, than existed in New York on Tuesday. The circumstances of his elopement and arrest were the general topic of conversation in every mind. When he appeared at Court, every avenue was crowded, and when conducted to prison, scores, and hundreds, followed him to the gate.

Stephenson's Account of his Capture.

Mr. Stephenson states, "On the fourth of this month I left Savannah in a gig, accompanied by Lloyd, with an intention of going forty or fifty miles into the country. After riding about sixteen miles, our carriage was unfortunately overturned, and being considerably hurt, we had to remain at a Farm House until we should be able to pursue our journey. At this place we stopped two or three days; and on Wednesday morning last, at one o'clock, while I was lying in bed, Mr. Lloyd came to me and solicited me to rise immediately. This I refused, and soon after, my room was entered by four men armed with cutlasses and pistols, who forced me into a carriage. After this vehicle had several times broken down, I found myself at Savannah; and notwithstanding all entreaty, was hurried to the water's edge. In the course of this ride, the parties threatened me, that if I made any noise they would shoot me; and even prohibited me from putting my head out of the carriage. At one time they requested me to get upon a horse and ride; but this was impossible. My theory had failed me, — I had become completely enervated, — and withal so tired and fatigued, that I felt utterly incapable of a compliance. I accordingly resumed my seat in the carriage, and half asleep and half fainting, was put on board a small boat, and thence transferred to the Pilot boat Savannah. The captain in this boat was named Wright White, and acted to me as if he was compelled to sail to New York at the instigation of a Mr. Oakes, who stated himself to be the deputy gaoler of Savannah. From this fact, on arriving at this port, I was taken into the custody of I know not who, and conveyed I know not where. It is true that at Mr. Goodhue's I was treated with considerable kindness, and that I slept under the roof of Mr. Hays, the High Constable, with a peace of mind that I had not experienced for many months previous. As regards the greater portion of my treatment, and the individual who acted in the case, I beg leave to decline stating; as I have no wish to implicate persons whose characters ought to stand fair in this community."

When it became generally rumored that Stephenson had been arrested, Mr. Allen and Mr. Wylie procured a writ of Habeas Corpus directed against the parties who were suspected of having him in their custody. This writ was answered forthwith, as requisite, and one of the individuals against whom it was directed, refused or neglected to open his house to the persons serving it. At six o'clock yesterday morning, writs of Habeas Corpus were served upon the British Consul, the High Constable, and the Sheriff, and at eleven, the Recorder stated that the individual would be forthcoming at one o'clock. By this time, the chambers of his Honor began to fill, and at ten minutes to one, when Mr. Buchanan (the British Consul) entered the place, it was thronged to excess. About seven minutes after the time, a carriage was driven up to the Hall, and Mr. Hays, and Mr. Platt, a Sheriff's deputy, accompanied by Stephenson, entered the room. He was immediately ushered into the presence of his counsel, Messrs. Patterson, P. H. May, and Wiley, — and after a conversation of a few minutes, the Recorder stated that he had received the return, and called upon Mr. Stephenson to assert what objection he had to urge.

Mr. S. — I have nothing to say: I leave it to my counsel. Recorder. — Here is a writ upon which I cannot discharge you, (holding the Sheriff's *Capias*.) Mr. Patterson. — I consider it the previous question in this case, that the party who has made the return, had no right to hold Mr. Stephenson. Mr. Emmet. — This involves a delicate subject, and I have no wish to enter into it; but in a consultation I have had with Mr. S., he states that he is convinced that Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Goodhue have acted very properly. Mr. Wiley. — I consider the observations of the gentleman rather gratuitous, and I pledge myself to prove a contrary statement of the facts. [Cheers.] British Consul. — Ah! Sir, what can you say? — Speak out. Mr. Emmet. — I mean to state that Mr. S. said what I have observed, with this qualification, that as far as he knew that

those gentlemen had acted, they had acted properly. Mr. Patterson. — If this account is received by the public, I have only to say that other ulterior measures will be restored to and such explanations made that the whole as it now stands, will be nullified. Mr. Goodhue. — I am no way interested in this man, to have treated him improperly, I had no knowledge of his coming here, until he had arrived; I am disposed to give him every facility in procuring justice. Mr. Emmet. — I here state that since Mr. S. has been in the state of New York, nothing has been done to him but by his concurrence. Mr. Wiley. — Since the gentleman is disposed to proceed so far, I, as one of Mr. S.'s counsel, positively state that he was in a ruffian-like manner, taken from his bed about 16 miles from Savannah by fellows armed with pistols. Mr. S. — Yes, and cutlasses also. [Cries of shame, and hisses.] Mr. Wiley. — In this manner was he kidnapped, dragged on board a pilot boat, and brought to this city. [Ah, shame. It is impossible to describe the feelings of disapprobation here expressed.] British Consul. — I really think that I am now reflected on. — I — Recorder. — Really, this is a strange proceeding. [Cries of hear him.] British Consul. — I beg leave to state that I am perfectly innocent in this proceeding. I did not know that he was to be brought to this city until he had arrived here, and then I was informed of it by two of the police. As soon as I heard that he was on board the boat, I went to it, and his hands were tied. I had him released, and he was then taken into the care of those who treated him in a very kind and proper manner. Mr. May. — I wish to make a few observations in reply to — Recorder. — Indeed, you had better not. Only see what an effect has already been produced. Mr. May. — I only wish to allay the ferment. It is not my intention to excite the audience. Sheriff. — The whole affair had better be allowed to remain for the present. Mr. May. — Then I move that Mr. S. be discharged. Recorder. — Certainly. The Sheriff then advanced to Mr. S., took him by the arm, and led him away to the Debtor's Prison, on a civil process at the instance of Mr. Parkins.

A scene of greater excitement and confusion has seldom been witnessed in a Court of justice. The strong sympathy which was manifested in favour of the prisoner, seemed to arise from the impression that he had been arrested and brought to this city without regard to the forms of law, — that he had been severely dealt with, and that an attempt had been made, or would be made, to deliver him up to his accusers without first proving his guilt, by conveying him on board a ship in the harbour, and transporting him to England. Whether or not there was any such intention it is not for us to say. The following affidavit will speak for itself: —

Mr. Parkins' Affidavit.

In the matter of James Buchanan and Jonathan Goodhue. State of New York, City and County of New York, ss.

Joseph Wilfred Parkins, at present of the city of New York, being duly sworn, doth depose and say, that in the latter part of the month of March, in a conversation which deponent had with Mr. James Buchanan, the British Consul, the said James Buchanan informed this deponent, that he had instructions from the British Government, and intended to take Rowland Stephenson and forcibly send him back to England. And further, that Jonathan Goodhue last night informed deponent, that the deponent could not see the said Rowland Stephenson; that the British Consul, James Buchanan, had taken him away from his house and intended to send the said Stephenson back to England; that the said Buchanan had authority to do so, and that he had a warrant for that purpose, obtained from one of the magistrates in this city. And deponent further saith, that he verily believes it to be the intention of the said James Buchanan and Jonathan Goodhue, forcibly to take and carry the said Rowland Stephenson out of the jurisdiction of the state of New York, contrary to law. And deponent further saith, that he verily believes that the said Rowland Stephenson hath been forcibly taken and detained, contrary to his will, by the said James Buchanan and Jonathan Goodhue, and that in so doing an assault has been committed upon the person of said Rowland Stephenson.

J. W. PARKINS.

Sworn this 17th day of March, 1829, before me,

WM. WILEY, Com'r. &c.

In the Court-room yesterday Mr. May inquired of Mr. Stephenson if he had signed any paper. He replied "No," but immediately handed him the following, which he said had been offered him for signature early in the morning.

New York, March 17, 1829.

Sir — The only reparation which I can make to the commercial community and my former friends, is at once

to submit myself to your advice, and surrender myself to you as his Majesty's Consul. I have deeply deplored the situation which led me to abandon England as a fugitive, to flee from what, alas! I find no man can escape from, the horrors of an embarrassed, distressed mind. The letters which I have written to my friends will prove the sincerity of these declarations. I therefore, sir, commit myself to your guidance; point out to me how I can but repair the injuries I have inflicted, and I shall prove the sincerity of my regret by an implicit acquiescence in your determination. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

James Buchanan, Esq.

His Majesty's Consul, New York.

We will close the article by subjoining a note which received last evening from Mr. Stephenson himself.

as follows: —

To the Editors of the Journal of Commerce.

Gentlemen. — I have seen your paper this morning, containing some remarks respecting my abduction from Savannah. Misused and mal-treated as I have been in England, both by individuals and the public press, I earnestly request that the public will suspend their opinion in regard to the failure of Remington, Stephenson, & Co., and my agency therein.

In the mean time, I cannot sufficiently express my admiration of the good feelings of this community, and of the unbought exertions of the learned Counsel, who volunteered in my behalf, and in support of the laws. Your most obedient humble servant,

ROWLAND STEPHENSON.

P. S. 1 o'clock A. M. — An officer, accompanied by a few citizens, boarded the Pilot Boat Savannah about 10 o'clock last night, but finding that Capt. White and his men were on shore, remained in waiting at the wharf, in order to arrest them when they should go on board. But by some means, unknown to ourselves, they contrived to get on board without the officer's knowledge, and immediately put to sea. — This was between 11 and 12 o'clock. — *Journal of Commerce*, 16th March.

Mr. Parkins wishes to have the public understand, that he did not make the affidavit, published yesterday, for the purpose of publication. It was made for a legal purpose, and he regrets it should have found its way into the newspapers. — *Id.*

The following is the return made by Mr. Hays to the Habeas Corpus which was served on him: —

"Rowland Stephenson, according to some previous arrangement with the British Consul, then being in his custody, voluntarily surrendered himself to me, and by his own desire I have kept him in custody."

JACOB HAYS."

The British Consul's Affidavit.

City of New York, ss.

James Buchanan, his Britannic Majesty's Consul, maketh oath. That he has read an affidavit, purporting to have been made by J. W. Parkins, in which it is stated that deponent informed the said Parkins he had instructions from government, and intended to take Rowland Stephenson, and forcibly send him to England, which statement deponent declares to be false. And also, that as to the apprehending of Stephenson, at Savannah, and bringing him on here, deponent was in no wise privy thereto, directly or indirectly, nor had deponent any intention of forcibly or otherwise removing him out of the jurisdiction of this state, as stated by Parkins. Deponent further saith, that the letter which appeared in the public papers, was drawn by deponent, at the express wish of Mr. Stephenson, and was left with him for consideration, and that he would have signed it, but as deponent saw no hope of preventing proceedings, he advised him not to do so.

JAMES BUCHANAN.

Sworn this 16th day of March, 1829, before me.

ZEPHANIAH PLATT.

The consul requests, as an act of justice, that those papers which have published the affidavit of J. W. Parkins (though this day it is stated such was not intended for publication) throughout the United States, will do him the favour to give place to the above.

Mr. Parkins' Hand Bill.

As many persons have asked how Mr. Stephenson came to be arrested, unless at the instance of Mr. Goodhue or the British Consul, we publish the following in explanation, which was printed in handbills and dispatched in every direction. — *Daily Adv.*

"Fifteen Hundred Dollars Reward — The above reward is offered to the person who will arrest and deliver up Rowland Stephenson, of the House of Remington, Stephenson & Co., bankers of Lombard-st., who absconded from London about the 27th of December, 1828, with money and bills to a large amount, the property of the ad-