

Evening Star, January 13, 1859, p. 3

To-day.—Wm. Boyd, known as Dr. Boyd, was placed on trial on a charge of stealing slaves from their owners, for the purpose of conveying them away into a free State. The testimony of the Maryland officers, who caught Boyd near Westminster with the slaves in his wagon, was in substance the same as given before Justice Goddard at the jail at the time of his arrest. Mr. Carrington conducts the case on the part of the defendant.

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Evening Star, January 14, 1859, p. 3

CRIMINAL COURT.—*Dr. Boyd.*—The trial of Dr. Wm. Boyd, for stealing negro slaves, which was pending when our report closed yesterday, was concluded and given to the jury, who returned a verdict of guilty as indicted. It may be proper to state that there were four several indictments against the Doctor, two for stealing slaves, and two for transporting them to a free State. The trial yesterday embraced the two indictments charging the larceny, and the verdict of guilty embraced both. The remaining cases are still to be tried. Mr. Carrington, for defendant, put in a motion for a new trial of the cases investigated, and will argue his motion at a future day. Boyd was not sentenced therefore.

The Court adjourned over to next Monday, and to-day new carpeting is being laid down in the space inside the bar of the court-room. Would that at the same time measures could be taken for the amelioration of the ventilating resources of the place, which are now as imperfect as can well be imagined.

Criminal Court – *Dr. Boyd* – The trial of Dr. Wm. Boyd, for stealing negro slaves, which was pending when our report closed yesterday, was concluded and given to the jury, who returned a verdict of guilty as indicted. It may be proper to state that there were four several indictments against the Doctor, two for stealing slaves, and two for transporting them to a free State. The trial yesterday embraced the two indictments charging the larceny, and the verdict of guilty embraced both. The remaining cases are still to be tried. Mr. Carrington, for defendant, put in a motion for a new trial of the cases investigated, and will argue his motion at a future day. Boyd was not sentenced therefore.

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CRIMINAL COURT.—In the two cases of the United States agt. Wm. Boyd, for stealing slaves and conveying them out of the District of Columbia, tried on Saturday, the following instructions were prayed by the counsel for the defendant, and granted by the Court to the jury, who nevertheless returned a verdict of guilty.

1st. If the jury believe from the whole evidence that the prisoner, Wm. Boyd, removed the negroes in question from the county of Washington, D. C., for the purpose of carrying them to the State of Pennsylvania, or to any other free State, or with a view to liberating said slaves, and not with the intent of converting them to his own use, or of making them his property, then, and in either case they should acquit.

To which the Court responded "Granted. The Circuit Court decided a case in which this point was the subject of their opinion—reversing an opinion of mine. That Court is the appellate Court of this tribunal, and I am bound to conform to the law as they have laid it down. Obedience to law is the corner-stone of our institutions—so long as a statute is unrepealed, or a decision unreversed, obedience and conformity to it is a duty. On the decision referred to the instruction is granted.

2d. If the jury believe from the evidence that the said Boyd was on his way to Pennsylvania and overtook the said slaves mentioned in these indictments, on the road, and received them in his wagon, and concealed them there, in order to remove them to said State, then he is not guilty of stealing. This instruction was granted without remark.

3d. In order to commit the prisoner at the bar, the jury should believe from the evidence that he took the negroes in question, in the county of Washington, District of Columbia, with the intention of converting them to his own use. This instruction was also granted without comment, as were the two following: If the jury believe from the evidence that the prisoner at the bar took possession of the negroes in question in the county of Washington, D. C., and carried them thence to New Windsor, Carroll county, State of Maryland, without the permission and against the will of their respective masters, still they should acquit, unless they further believe from said evidence beyond a reasonable doubt, that his intention in taking said negroes and carrying them from the said District as aforesaid was to convert them to his own use and make them his own property.

5th. If the jury believe from the evidence that the prisoner at the bar has proved a good character, they should consider that circumstance in connection with the other circumstances in the case, as a fact tending to show the intention with which he took possession of said slaves and carried them to New Windsor as aforesaid.

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Evening Star, February 4, 1859, p. 3

CRIMINAL COURT.—The Court met this morning, at 11 o'clock. Messrs. Carrington and Lloyd, counsel for Wm. Boyd, lately convicted of stealing slaves, appeared before Judge Crawford to argue a motion for a new trial of the cause. The principal grounds in the motion were alleged to be that the verdict which convicted Boyd was contrary to the evidence elicited at the trial; that it was contrary to law, and contrary to the instructions of the Court. The argument was opened by Mr. Lloyd, who was followed by Mr. Ould on the part of the United States, who was addressing the Court when our report closed.

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Evening Star, February 6, 1859, p. 3

CRIMINAL COURT.—On Saturday, after our report closed, the argument of counsel in behalf of Wm. Boyd, convicted of stealing slaves, was concluded, and the Court reserved the matter for a few days' consideration before deciding upon it. Boyd, who was in Court during the argument, was then remanded to jail.

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Evening Star, February 7, 1859, p. 3

CRIMINAL COURT.—
The Court then gave its decision in the motion for a new trial of Wm. Boyd for stealing slaves, which was heard on Saturday last. The motion was overruled on the ground that the jury in their verdict found a state of facts with which the Court could not interfere. Boyd was then placed at the bar and sentenced to hard labor in the penitentiary for seven years in each of the two cases which have been tried, making fourteen years in all. Two other cases charging the prisoner with conspiring with slaves yet remain on the docket against him.

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