

Arrest of a Fugitive Slave.

A great ferment was excited in Crosswicks, last week, by an attempt made by the Sheriff of Burlington, Joseph Kirkbride, and Constable Alexander Pearson, to arrest a colored man named Lewis, said to be a fugitive slave.

They found him at the house of William Idell where he was at work, claimed him as their prisoner, & called upon Garret Benett and Charles Applegate, who were at work near by, to bring a rope and help secure him.

While these men were hesitating whether to obey the Sheriff or to follow their own feelings, Lewis who was firmly grasped by each arm, with an almost superhuman effort, dashed the officers from him to some distance, and jumped at a bound over a high gate, and then over a high pale fence with out touching either. He then ran across a field and partly through the creek, but recollecting that if his clothes were wet they would impede his flight he returned and crossed the creek by a neighboring bridge. He ran to the house of a friend near by, in great alarm, crying out, *they have had, me! they are after me!*

Finding his pursuers were near, he fled to another house, and there concealed himself. The same night he was landed in New York; and is presumed to be now safe from all pursuit.

We are informed that the colored man was much esteemed in Crosswicks and that the attempt to arrest him has produced a great excitement against the officers. It is to be presumed, however, that those officers considered that they were performing their duty under the law; though it is the opinion of many, that in consequence of a recent decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, no state law, in regard to the arresting of fugitive slaves has any force, and that no state officer is bound to arrest such persons.