

## THE CASE OF DRED SCOTT IN THE NEW YORK ASSEMBLY.

(Correspondence of the New York Evening Post.)

ALBANY, April 17, 1857.

The Assembly took up yesterday afternoon the Dred Scott resolutions, and the accompanying 'act to secure freedom to all persons within the State.' The debate was of a highly interesting character, and conducted with feeling and ability by Messrs. Jones, Kivlin and Woods, for the democrats, and Wooster, Foote, Hogeboom, Harpending, Cox and Littlejohn, in favor of the bill. On motion of Mr. Harpending, it was proposed to amend the second resolution, as published in the *Evening Post*, so that it might not express so general a want of confidence in the Supreme Court of the United States. To this Judge Hogeboom said, if he detected his neighbor in his hen-roost, he should be very apt to consider him a thief, not to be trusted at all, and should not confine his strictures to the weakness for chickens. The court which had prostituted itself to base uses once, was capable of it again, and for himself he had lost confidence in the court, and desired to express the fact in the resolution. The amendment failed, as did several coming from Republicans without backbone, who seemed to walk with the constant fear of law and constables before their eyes.

The resolutions, as originally offered, were finally reported to the House by the Committee of the Whole. The bill was then taken, and a very remarkable discussion followed—remarkable for the efforts of some gentlemen to dodge its responsibility to their constituents, and the bold and manly tone of others. A substitute was offered by Mr. Wooster, of Herkimer, containing only two sections, to the effect that any person being in this State shall be free, and any person holding or attempting to hold a man as a slave in this State shall be guilty of felony, punishable, on conviction, by imprisonment for a term of not more than ten, nor less than two years. Another was offered by Mr. Harpending, intended to evade collision with the fugitive slave law, and an amendment to the original bill of Judge Hogeboom for the same purpose. Since both were rejected by the House, it is scarcely worth while to discuss the consistency of these amendments. It must be seen by every one, however, that a law which says first that every person within the State is free, and after, declares that certain persons may be taken from it as slaves, consents to the *enslavement* of a man once *free* by force of the law itself.

Near the close of the discussion, Mr. Littlejohn took the floor, in a speech of unequalled power and earnestness. The transition from whistling apologies for doing the right thing, to an open, manly avowal of eternal hostility to all oppression, came like a thunderbolt to the mere politicians. Mr. L. said, that for one, he held that no power under Heaven could make a man a slave, and he would never consent to speak of that abominable institution except as a *fact*, hateful to God and humanity, and that no law nor judgment should compel him to recognize it as a right. He said some gentlemen paraded the bugbear 'Revolution' before the people. 'Revolution!' continued he, 'I love the word. Interpenetrating it, and wrapped up in it, is the word "Liberty;" out of its fruitful soil has sprung all the freedom that the world enjoys. We ought not to fear it; it gave us all we now possess of liberty. But he was not to be understood as contemplating any revolution by arms—he spoke of a revolution in public opinion which has already begun—a bloodless revolution, going on only in the hearts and consciences of the people.' This speech sent a thrill through the House; and here, as the session is closing, I must depart from my usual custom to bear evidence to the high qualities of the accomplished Speaker of the House. By his unvarying courtesy and dignified manner, he has earned the respect of all, while his decided ability has enabled him to discharge the onerous duties of his place wisely and justly. All persons, politically opposed to him or not, respect the honest man and the accomplished gentleman.