

Title:	Issue of <i>The Anti-Slavery Bugle</i> featuring an article on the Fugitive Slave Law, October 12, 1850		
Creator:	James Barnaby, Publishing Agent		
Dates of Material:	October 12, 1850	Record Group Number:	RG 856
Summary of Contents:	<p>An issue of <i>The Anti-Slavery Bugle</i>, Salem, Ohio, dated October 12, 1850. The front page contains a lengthy article on the Fugitive Slave Law. It begins by describing a meeting of citizens opposed to the Fugitive Slave Law in Pittsburgh where several speeches were made, followed by the reaction of colored people who were choosing to flee to Canada. (stored in oversize cabinet)</p> <p>The Hon. T.M. Howe, Whig candidate for Congress said <i>“I look on the ‘fugitive state bill’ as more full of iniquity than any other that has been passed by our informal Legislature for the last twenty years. I cannot express my detestation of its infamous provisions! Is it not outrageous that in the middle of the nineteenth century, in the United States of America, a bill should be passed which would almost have disgraced the ‘dark ages’?”</i></p> <p>A report was unanimously adopted at the meeting, an excerpt of which reads <i>“A large number of the citizens of Pittsburgh and its vicinity assembled without respect to party, in pursuance of public notice to take into consideration the provisions of the law, in relation to colored persons...in requiring of them the performance of acts in violation of every feeling of humanity, and in contempt of those provisions of the Constitution designed to protect the personal liberty of every man against illegal arrests and imprisonment. This meeting does further denounce the bill as iniquitous and insulting to the freemen of the North inasmuch as it makes no provision for trial by Jury, at the house of the prisoner, <u>thus falsely insinuating that justice would not be done to the slaveholders by the yeomanry of the free States.</u>”</i></p> <p>Several resolutions follow and a commentary on the underlined excerpt, noting that <i>“these Pittsburghers are indignant...at the ‘insinuation’ that the yeomanry of the North would not do justice to the slaveholders through the form of a jury trial—that is, that they would send the slave back when the Constitution and laws require it! What is <u>such</u> indignation but an acknowledgement of their own shame—their own damning villainy?”</i></p> <p>Another article follows concerning 16 fugitive slaves in Utica on a boat bound for Canada, who were described as being well armed and determined to fight to the last minute. A commentary followed noting that <i>“the effects of the iniquitous Law upon the colored people of this vicinity have been sudden and startling. It has come upon them as a mighty and resistless avalanche burying their hopes and prospects for the future, and sweeping away the last vestige of confidence and trust in the protection and justice of the American Government...So great is the alarm existing among our colored population...that more than one hundred persons...have already left for Canada.”</i></p>		

Physical Description / Condition:	1 newspaper (40 x 52 cm)		
Administrative/ Biographical Sketch:	<p>The Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 stipulated that refugees from enslavement living in the Northern States could be returned to slavery in the South if captured. This new act strengthened the Fugitive Slave Act of 1793 which gave slaveholders the right to capture escaped slaves, but did not require states to enforce it. Many Northern States simply ignored the act until the revised 1850 law, which made it illegal to assist escaped slaves in any way or obstruct their capture. The 1850 Act prompted thousands of slaves to flee to Canada. It has been estimated that between 1850 and 1860, 15,000 to 20,000 black people settled in Canada. Many used the Underground Railroad during their escape. The Act was repealed in 1864.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Source: Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 The Canadian Encyclopedia Retrieved 2023/09/14</p>		
Location:	Brock University Archives		
Source Information:	Acquired in 2023.		
Described by:	Chantal Cameron	Date:	September 2023