

## The Rescue of Captain Farnum.

[From the Savannah Republican, May 3]

On Tuesday afternoon, about dusk, our county jail was visited by some four or five persons who effected the rescue of Captain Farnum, who was arrested in New York, and brought to this State for trial on a charge of complicity with the slave trade in the Wanderer case. The circumstances of the rescue, so far as we can learn, are as follows:—Captain Farnum, it appears, has been allowed every privilege at the jail consistent with a liberal construction of duty; his confinement being almost a nominal thing. Arrangements were made between him and the escuers that Captain Farnum should give up his parole order which he had been allowed such freedom from restraint, when the former were to rush in, bind the jailer, and release the prisoner. This was carried into effect, an opportune moment being selected, when Mr. Stone, the jailer, was out on parade, and Peter Luddy, his deputy, in charge. Captain Farnum requested Luddy to lock him in his cell, which was done, and Luddy had returned to the hall leading through the jail, when he was met and held by the rescuers; his keys taken from him, the prisoner released and conducted to a carriage in waiting, and driven off to the Pulaski House, where he was surrounded by his friends, who farther defied the law by protecting him from arrest. The District Attorney, Hamilton Cooper, Esq., heard of it, while casually visiting the office of the Pulaski House, and endeavored to take the necessary proceedings for a re-arrest; he agreed to let the matter rest until yesterday morning. Farnum's friends, in consideration of Mr. Cooper's consenting to adopt that course, pledged him their honor that they would produce the man and make application for bail, the ensuing morning; such application not having been made at two o'clock, Mr. Cooper notified Mr. Farnum and his friends that he should now require that Mr. Farnum should surrender himself into the custody of the jailer before he would consent to notice any application, after that hour, for bail on his part, and that if they refused to adopt that course, he would call upon the proper authorities and require his forcible arrest. Mr. Farnum then surrendered himself into the custody of the jailer of Chatham county. We understand he will make his application for bail this morning.

At one time matters were a equally appearance in the office, and "shooters" were exhibited with freedom. The parties engaged in the affair, we believe, make no secret of their complicity; they did not even take the trouble to disguise themselves, but went about their work with a boldness and apparent disregard of consequences that show they were determined to override every obstacle and set the law at defiance. Their object is accomplished, and our community have the proof before them that our courts avail us nothing if a few determined men see proper to set their actions at naught.

With the commission of such an act as this it is pertinent to ask where is such a spirit to stop? Are we to quietly submit to such encroachments on the only safeguard we have—the laws? Shall we say there are such and such men of family, wealth and influence who may do as they please and not be interfered with? Shall the privilege of law-breaking be confined to any particular class; or shall the poor man, the thief, the murderer and the assassin, come in for their share of the benefits which such a state of affairs will bring about? We like equality. If one class is to have these privileges, let all. Don't let us have distinctions. There are persons incarcerated in our jail now that are just as anxious to be released as Captain Farnham, and we see no reason why they should not, without, as we have already remarked, certain classes only are allowed to do as they please.

The parties who are engaged in this rescue are men that we ought to look to for example; they are such as give tone to society and expression to public feeling, and the act is, on this account, all the more dangerous for the precedent it gives to any one who may be actuated by wrong motives. We do not suppose that a feeling of regret has yet been for a moment entertained by one of the participants; they are still under the flush of excitement, with the greetings of friends poured into their ears at the accomplishment of such a magnificent coup. But when these transitory emotions are passed, and they come to look deliberately at the act and its legitimate consequences, they cannot fail of acknowledging to themselves the gravity of their error.