

31 October 1863, 1

*A Faithful and Sensible Slave*—We saw a negro man at Madison last Sunday who has recently escaped from the Yankees at Helena, and made his way to his master. He belongs to Mr. McGehee, a large Mississippi planter, who is a refugee, residing in Morgan county. The boy says that the Yankees took him from the field and marched him to their camp across the river, where they put him into a negro company, and drilled him for about six weeks. During this time he became sick of soldiering, and very much disgusted with his captors, who had separated him from his wife and children, whom they had sent North to support themselves. Feeling—to use his own expression—that his “old mass neber treat him dat a way,” he determined to desert, and get back to the old plantation. Accordingly he swam the Mississippi, and after much delay in evading the enemy’s pickets, succeeded in making his way to his old home, which he found almost deserted, but not then occupied by the enemy. He staid there several weeks, and then resolved to come to his master in Georgia. He reached Madison one day last week, and the meeting between him and his master is described as a most touching scene. His experience and influence will be salutary among the simple minded blacks, who are deluded by false notions of freedom and of the friendship of the Yankees. He says that many more of the negroes in the Federal army would gladly get away, but they are afraid to attempt to swim the river and take the risk of capture. *Augusta Constitutionalist.*