

# SELECTIONS.

From the New York Herald.

## A SCENE IN CHURCH

In the Rev. Henry Beecher's Church, yesterday, at the close of a sermon, a curious scene occurred. Mr. Beecher stated that he was about to do something which perhaps might be misunderstood, and subject him to considerable criticism and animadversion.

About a week since, I received a letter from the city of Washington, which contained what I conceived to be a most extraordinary story. A young woman nearly white was offered for sale in that city by her own father, for a purpose so infamous, that it is impossible for me to allude to it here.—Strange to say, a slavedealer who knew of the facts, became interested in the girl, and to his credit interposed in her behalf, to save her from the fate that awaited her. The price of the girl was fixed at \$1,200. He subscribed \$100 himself, and actually induced another slaveholder to give another \$100 towards raising a fund for her liberation.—Applications were made to certain eminent men in Baltimore, and \$500 more were raised, leaving \$500 to complete the required sum. The girl was sent here on her own personal security, and she must go back next week, unless the \$500 is subscribed before to-morrow. You, brethren, are to say whether she shall go back or not. It is stated that abolitionists talk about the freedom of the slave, but do not act. It is for you to show that that statement is untrue. I will show you the girl who is to be condemned to a life of infamy, unless this Christian congregation interposes to save her. Sarah, come up here.

The last remark was addressed to a young mulatto girl, who came forward and ascended the pulpit. Mr. Beecher handed her up the steps, and furnished her with a seat, so that the whole audience could see her. The utmost curiosity and interest were manifested by the audience, when the girl was in sight. She was almost white, had straight hair, and might in a crowd have passed for a white woman. She was about twenty years of age, was neatly dressed, and might be called handsome.

While the plates were passing around, many of the women were in tears, and the contribution was most liberal, the plates being covered with gold coin and bank bills.

Mr. Beecher continued addressing the audience while the money was being collected, and asked, 'Were they willing that vast territories should be thrown open for the enslavement of women such as the one now before them?'

Here an old gentleman in the audience rose, and stated that several persons in his neighborhood had pledged themselves to raise all that was necessary over the collection, to free the woman. This announcement caused loud applause, as the feelings of the audience were raised to the highest pitch. The stamping of feet and the clapping of hands continued for some minutes.

Several females in the vicinity of the writer were applauding loudly, and handkerchiefs were very generally used—indeed, the utmost excitement prevailed.

Mr. Beecher said he didn't approve of an ungodly clapping of hands in the Church of God, but he could see no harm on the present occasion. The hills of Judea were wont to ring with the plaudits of the people and the sound of cymbals, when any signal instance of God's presence was manifested, and he could forgive that natural burst of enthusiasm on an occasion like the present. Let us now, he continued, join in the hymn—the first hymn of freedom our sister has ever heard.

We learn that \$800 were collected—\$300 more than was required. It is stated—with what truth we know not—that the girl is the daughter of one of the first gentlemen of Virginia, and has been well educated, and is accomplished and refined.—She ran away from her master last Christmas, and was arrested and imprisoned at Baltimore. Her owner then sold her for \$1,500. She was purchased by a slaveholder, who knowing her good character, and the odious relation she had been compelled to hold in her master and father's family, took compassion on her, and purchased her in order to give her her freedom. For this purpose he and his friend contributed \$300. The sum of \$450 was contributed for the same object by persons in Washington, through the agency of Dr. Bailey, of the National Era. She was then sent North to Mr. Beecher, on her parole of honor, to obtain the balance of \$500 necessary for her redemption.