

## A MILITARY SLAVE TRADE.

A bold and disgraceful traffic in negroes has lately sprung up in this city, which promises to become intolerable unless prompt and severe measures for its repression are undertaken by the proper officials. Ever since the recruiting of negroes has commenced in this State, "recruiting brokers," as they are called, have made kidnapping a principal branch of their nefarious business. These men are the rowdies and vagabonds of the streets, who, having no honorable means of support, have adopted this business, not only as being consonant with their tastes, but as affording large margins of profit. Scarcely a day passes, during which one or more negroes are not boldly attacked in the open daylight, threatened with violence if they resist or make an outcry, and then dragged off to some recruiting office, and absolutely forced to enlist in the colored regiments. Having once signed the articles, the hope of redress, of course, becomes distant, if not altogether vain, and they are marched off to camp under guard—the victims of a system as inhuman and despotic as that of slavery itself. Men who have been missed by their families have been discovered fast in these toils, after many days of search; to rescue them is next to impossible. The very boldness of such transactions is the chief element which deprives these unhappy men of redress. Few civilians, much less military men, would be apt to believe that a black could be seized upon in Broadway at mid-day, and dragged into these recruiting dens against his will; therefore, when they allege such a fact as grounds for release from the service, they are looked upon as liars and skulks. The upshot of such matters is, that the broker pockets the bounty money, or else divides it with the recruiting officer, who, of course, lends himself to the inhuman scheme. On Tuesday afternoon a negro was absolutely chased into one of the ferry-houses by the kidnapers, and would have been carried off, had not the police interfered in his behalf. With such scenes daily transacting in our midst, while the authorities take no steps to break up the system, and assure protection to the negro, there seems to be little distinguishable difference between New York and any slave city in the South. This kidnapping scheme is only a new ramification of the Copperhead plan, which gave tangible proof of its existence in July. The same scoundrels who hung the negroes then are hunting and selling them now, and in this they are cheered on by the same politicians who led them through the riots. The wrongs of the blacks in this Empire City are of a nature positively sickening. If a crazy sot feels in want of a little excitement, he starts off to "maul his nigger;" if he dare not kill, he sells. This is the tale from week to week, and from month to month. It seems as if the artillery which swept our streets in July only did half its work. The snob feeling is still fresh, still growing, and still at work. Peace is never assured when numbers bid open defiance to the law, and mob-men are doing that now.

The draft is again at hand, and, in anticipation of the fact, the usual denunciation of the Government and grumbling at the war has recommenced. We shall now have an opportunity of observing whether the Copperheads will look upon it with more favor since the abrogation of the famous three-hundred-dollar clause.

STUYVESANT.