

BRACKEN CO., KY., Nov. 14, 1853.

*To the Editor of the National Era:*

We are here enduring another of those severe trials incident to the Free Church movement in a slave State. One of our most active members—James B. Cripps—has been thrown into prison, where he now lies, awaiting his trial. Friends are ready, and have offered, to bail him; but his attorney thinks it best for him to remain in prison for a time. His arrest was as follows:

Early last week, a slaveholder went to the house of a Mr. C——, who is a dissipated man, but who often attends the Free Church in this county, and whose wife is a member. At the time, C—— was drunk. C——'s wife says the slaveholder drank with C——, and proposed to trade him a horse. She objected, on the ground that her husband was drunk. That night, the slaveholder's colored woman, or that of his father, (so says C——'s wife,) came to C——'s house, sought admittance, and asked him, "When are them niggers going to run off?" "What negroes?" said C——. "Oh, you know," said the colored woman. "Oh, about Christmas," replied C——; "and if them that were caught not long since had taken my advice, they would never have been caught; but I don't care." The same slaveholder and another man were lying around the house, eavesdropping—listening. Soon, C—— was arrested for an attempt to entice away slaves, and these eavesdroppers appeared as witnesses. C—— was convicted, and thrown into prison. He, like other drunkards in the first stages of delirium tremens, is subject to seasons of fright, after a debauch. His fears were appealed to. His wife says he told her, "They told me my only chance was to turn State's evidence against some one." Brother Cripps heard him say to his wife, "Ask the lawyer, as I have turned State's evidence, if I will need a lawyer." He turned; he criminated Brother Cripps, and three free colored men, by saying they told him they had aided away slaves. At the time of the principal charge against Bro. Cripps, he (Cripps) was in Pennsylvania. He was sent as a delegate from this county to the Convention of the Free Democracy, which met at Pittsburgh. From thence he went to visit friends in Pennsylvania. He is an active, talking, bold Anti-Slavery man; he is therefore hated by the Slave Power. He has a sprightly mind, and, we believe, an honest heart. He is a mechanic, with small means. He is industrious, but has made much sacrifice for the cause of righteousness. He and the colored men imprisoned can ill spare the time and money necessarily expended in the arrest, imprisonment, and defence. His friends here, who secure to him a trial, are taxed in time and means.

This is but another manifestation of what Slavery is continually doing for the non-slave-

holders. It seeks to enslave the white man, as well as the black man. It must fall, or we be slaves.

We trust, however, that this is but one of the many events which shall serve to awaken the people of the slave States to the unscrupulous aggressions of the Slave Power. Surely, that must be a nefarious, despairing institution, that needs to be bolstered up by such a shameful, dastardly subterfuge as the above.

P. S. *Nov. 18.*—Brother Cripps has been bailed out, and one of the colored men acquitted.