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SUBJECT: - "Our People in (Name of City. Town or County in which contestant resides)

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THE NECRO MICRATION TO CANADA AFTER PASSING OF THE FUCITIVE SLAVE ACT

(Continued from last issue) Another memorable border incident occurred at Sandusky, Ohio, in October, 1852. A party of fugitives, two men, two women and several children had been brought from Kentucky and were aboard the steamer Arrow about to sail for Detroit when they were all arrested by the alleged owner and taken before the mayor of the town. Rush R. Sloane, a local lawyer, offered to act for the defence. The preeedings were so hurried that no warrant or writ was ready to be produced in court and Sloane signified by a gesture that the Negroes were free. There was an immediate rush for the door on the part of the fugitives and their friends, but even as they fled from the court room the claimant entered calling out: "Here are the papers. I own the slaves. I'll hold you personally responsible for their escape." The fugitives meanwhile had gone to the harbour, entered a sailboat owned by friendly fishermen and were on their way to Canada. The slaver, frantic at seeing his property vanishing, tried in vain to get other fishermen to pursue them. He then hurried to a neighboring town, trying to secure help, but with no more success. Within a few hours the runaways were landed at Port Stanley, safe from all pursuers. The slaver made good his threat to hold Sloane responsible for the loss of property, entering action and securing judgement for \$3,000. It is related as one of the pathetic ncidents of the case that when the fugitives were taken off the steamer Arrow one of the women dropped her infant child on the ground and disowned it, hoping that it at least would be free if she were condemned to re-

With so great an influx of refugees into a country that was sparsely settled, some suffering was inevitable, but contemporary evidence indicates that after all it was but slight. There was probably more distress during the winter of 1850-51 than later on because of the large number who came in during the few months immediately after the passing of the Fugitive Slave Bill. In their haste to find safety many left everything behind, entering Canada with little more than the clothes on their backs. A. L. Powers, of Farmington, who visited Windsor at the beginning of 1851, found about a score of families living in an old military barracks, most of them in need to both fuel and clothing. At Sandwich, near by, he also found distress and mentions seeing a family of eight children who were almost nude and who were suffering from the cold. Sickness was in many cases the result of the exposure to which the Negroes had been subjected in their efforts to reach Canada. Later on the situation improved and by 1855 the workers of the American Missionary Association reported that 'in general, those who have gone from the United States, even the fugitives, may provide for the wants of their families, after a short residence there; especially if ethy meet a friendly hand and, more than all, good counsel on their arriv-

turn to slavery.

(To be concluded)

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