

and they then walked forward, and were shown into a small room adjoining the bar, and separated from it only by a thin board partition, and without any means of fastening the door inside. They had scarcely been there fifteen minutes, when a wagon drove up to the door, and two men with rifles in their hands alighted from it, and walked into the bar-room, and called for a glass of grog. Rankin now thought his race was run: the poor negro, overcome with fatigue, had thrown himself on the floor, and was already sound asleep, with his head under the table. Almost the first question put by the landlord to these persons was, 'Well, have you seen or heard anything of them?' to which they replied in the negative; but said it would be impossible for them to escape, as they had been already at Black River, and had left a description of them at that place, as well as at all the public-houses along the road; and beside, there had been a party of riflemen in pursuit of them through the woods all day, and it was quite probable they would find them safe in jail at Cleveland. One of them remarked, he cared very little about the nigger, but he would give a thousand dollars for a good shot at the Spaniard (meaning Rankin). This conversation, it may be supposed, intermingled as it was with the most frightful oaths, and as distinctly audible as if he had been in the same room, was not of the most agreeable nature to Rankin, particularly as he would have to contend with them alone, for he dared not arouse the negro for fear of attracting their attention by making the least noise; however, he resolved to sell his life as dearly as possible, and pulling out both his pistols, determined to have the first shot if they should attack him, thinking that if he could only floor one of them, he would be a match for the other; but, after a good deal more swearing, and threats of what they would do, if they could only get hold of the fugitive, they again got into their wagon and drove off.

"As soon as they had gone, the landlord came into the room, and congratulated them on their narrow escape, and told them the two men who had just gone had passed at ten o'clock that morning in pursuit of them; and that four other men, armed with rifles, had likewise been at his house during the day in search of them; but he assured them that they need be under no apprehension, as he would not betray them, and they would be perfectly safe in his house. Supper, which had been previously ordered, was now brought in, and they made a most hearty meal, having eaten nothing from eight o'clock in the morning till then (nine at night). After having finished their supper, they were conducted by the host up stairs, into a garret, where beds had been prepared for them. Rankin then asked him for his advice, as to what was