

SAVED FROM BEING LYNCHED.

Jim Taylor (Colored) Taken Aboard a Tug by the Sheriff of Kent County.

[Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.]

CHESTERTOWN, Md., May 17.—Kent county is filled with intense feeling from Rock Hall to Millington, aroused by the criminal assault of the colored man, Jim Taylor, upon little Nellie Catherine Silcox. The event of last night has aroused the citizens of Chestertown and Kennedyville to a high state of excitement. The accused was arrested and put in Chestertown jail, as has already been announced in THE SUN. As early as 10 o'clock last night one by one a crowd began to gather about the court-house green and around the jail until it had swollen to a gathering of fully five hundred men. Among them were some of the most estimable and quiet citizens of Kent county, men who take the most prominent part in its affairs.

THE PRISONER WAS GONE.

In the meantime Sheriff Plummer had not been idle, and was determined to do his duty and protect his prisoner. He had been early appraised of the intention of the people toward Taylor. Indeed, he well knew what the effort would be when the man was placed in his keeping. He knew that Jim Taylor would never live to meet his trial if the people of Kent county could reach him. Like a conscientious officer, however, he took his measures.

DOWN THE RIVER ON A TUG.

"I was apprised," said Sheriff Plummer, "late in the afternoon of yesterday that the colored man would be lynched last night, and about 7 o'clock I saw men congregating about the jail-yard. I even was entertaining one of the men in my room. I had a hurried consultation with counsel and immediately decided to protect the prisoner. About 8 o'clock I heard the tug Gracie blow for Chestertown, and I at once determined to charter her and take the man away from here. I sent my deputy, Mr. William Rose, master of the tug, the colored man Taylor and Mose Brown, a witness in the Hill murder trial, to the wharf by way of several alleys and private yards, and I soon followed carefully, seeing that there was no person following me.

THE CHILD'S UNCLE PROTESTS.

"We steamed down the river as far as Hubbard's, when the engineer, ex-Deputy Silcox, who is an uncle of the outraged girl, found out who his passengers were, and he immediately protested, but finding that it was useless to protest, he finally submitted, after much complaining. We then went on to Wilmer's wharf, on the Queen Anne's side, opposite B. N. S. Wilkins' place, on the

Kent shore, and there we stayed until 2.30 A. M. We noticed some persons on the Kent shore, and then started back with our prisoner to Chestertown, which we reached at 3.30 A. M. I went ashore and found about twenty-five men lying in wait for us, and immediately returned to the tug and steamed about the river until 5 o'clock, when I brought my prisoners to jail unmolested.

BACK IN JAIL.

"I shall continue to detain them so long as they are in my charge. If the negro had been lynched Sunday night it would have been no concern of mine, but since they have brought him to me and placed him under the law, I shall do my whole duty."

SEARCHING THE JAIL.

All this time the crowd before the door of the jail had continued to swell. The determined men who composed it were evidently waiting for the arrival of the Kennedyville reinforcement, composed of the immediate neighbors of John W. Silcox, the father of the injured girl. Kennedyville is eight miles from Chestertown, towards the northeast, in the interior of the county. Then, like a flash, word went through the crowd that the prisoner had escaped. This produced intense excitement and at once stirred the crowd to action. Without waiting longer for the party from Kennedyville they marched to the jail and demanded the prisoner. Deputy Frank Plummer was on duty and, seeing that resistance would be futile and knowing the prisoner was safe, he gave the cell keys to the men and in they went, but failed to find their man. After coming out some one suggested a search in the meat house and stable, and the crowd then surged into these places, but again met disappointment.

THE KENNEDYVILLE CONTINGENT.

It was now about half an hour after midnight. At this time a body of masked men, marching like soldiers, entered Chestertown. It was composed of sixty citizens of Kennedyville. They came quietly into town, marching four abreast, with slow and soldierly step. They went straight to the jail corridor and demanded of Mr. Plummer the colored man Taylor. They were informed that the man was not there. They angrily contradicted the officer. The deputy and demanded a search protested that the prisoner had gone, but the men from Kennedyville would not be satisfied until they, too, had searched the jail. After the search was over, upon going outside the men heard that Taylor had been taken down the river, so down the county about one hundred men went on horseback and in carriages and wagons in hopes of catching the men, but they returned without them.

WHAT THE PRISONERS SAID.

The colored men who had been on the "moonlight excursion," as many of the citizens here call it, were seen in the jail today by a SUN reporter. Taylor said he was feeling very sleepy after his trip, but was not at all afraid. He says he was at Mr. Silcox's house Sunday morning, but did not assault the girl. He accuses a certain white man of the crime. Mose Brown says he was glad to get out of the jail for fear they might get hold of the wrong man. He says he leaped over the high board fence easily, he was so glad to get out.

AN INDIGNATION MEETING.

An indignation meeting was held in Chestertown today and strong language used against taking the prisoner away. It was determined at a meeting held at 4 o'clock this afternoon to place a guard of ten men at the jail, to be relieved every hour, to watch and see that the prisoner does not get away again. A message was received from Kennedyville about 7 o'clock this evening to keep the prisoner for tonight.
