

Case of Mary Smith.

Some time during the last winter information was received in Boston, that a colored woman at Ocracoke ~~Bar~~ in North Carolina, named Mary Smith belonging to this place was detained as a slave or on suspicion of being a slave, by a person of the name of Pike, at Ocracoke in North Carolina. The information was brought by a passenger in a vessel from that place to Boston. <sup>(as nearly as is now recollecte)</sup> He stated that this woman reported that she was born in Boston, and had gone to New Orleans, <sup>several years ago</sup> with a family; that her master and mistress both dying, she took passage ~~with~~ in a vessel from New Orleans for Boston, but was unfortunately wrecked on the coast of N. Carolina. She also stated that she had been examined before me ~~court~~ & soon after her shipwreck, her freedom recognized, but that subsequent

by she had been taken and detained by Squire  
Pike.

In consequence of this information inquiries  
were made in regard to Mary Smith, and  
with a good deal of difficulty it was as-  
certained that a colored person of that  
name, born in the vicinity of Boston, had  
resided here a number of years, and had  
afterwards ~~gone~~ <sup>to New York</sup> ~~left~~ <sup>left</sup> her several years  
<sup>ago.</sup> The affidavits of a number of persons  
who had known Mary Smith were procured  
which substantiated these facts. These affida-  
vits were laid before the Governor, ~~of~~  
Massachusetts, who was requested to apply  
to the Governor of North Carolina ~~for~~  
~~to~~ have Mary Smith sent back to  
Boston. The Governor expressed a strong  
interest in the case and addressed the following  
letter to the Governor of N. Carolina -

Insert No 1.

In this communication the Governor of N.  
Carolina returned the following answer

Insert No 2

In consequence of the application thus made to Pike, he surrendered ~~the~~ woman, and allowed her to return to Boston, ~~and~~ where she arrived ~~here~~ in June last.

~~Then~~ After <sup>the woman's</sup> ~~Mary Smith's~~ arrival here, she was brought before one of the persons who had known Mary Smith, who said at once she had never known the person before her. Upon further inquiry it now appears that the woman who has now arrived here though named Mary Smith, is not ~~the~~ the Mary Smith described in the affidavits ~~present~~ laid before the governor.

Her account of herself, which there seems no ground to disbelieve, and which is corroborated by in some degree by other evidence, is as follows. She is the daughter of Violet Smith and was born in Boston. ~~that~~ She resided when very young with a Mr. Wm Whiting. She left her with Mr. Whiting's family when quite a child, and went with him to N. Orleans. <sup>18</sup> She is very ignorant and does not appear to know how many years ago it was. She resided at N. Or.

leans with Mr. Whitney's family. He became a  
custom house officer there. <sup>Safeguarding Mrs. Whitney</sup> Mrs. Whitney died  
at N. Orleans. After his death she went to  
Cincinnati with his children. There she ended,  
~~with her services~~ <sup>having</sup> the care of the children,  
till her services were no longer required, when  
she went to New Orleans, and took passage  
from there for Boston.

I have thought ~~this~~ a statement would be interesting  
to the readers of Liberator, not only on account of the  
remarkable coincidence of the names of two persons,  
but also as exhibiting the sort of treatment to which <sup>free</sup> colored  
citizens of the northern states are exposed at the South

Ms. A. 9. 2. 8. 12