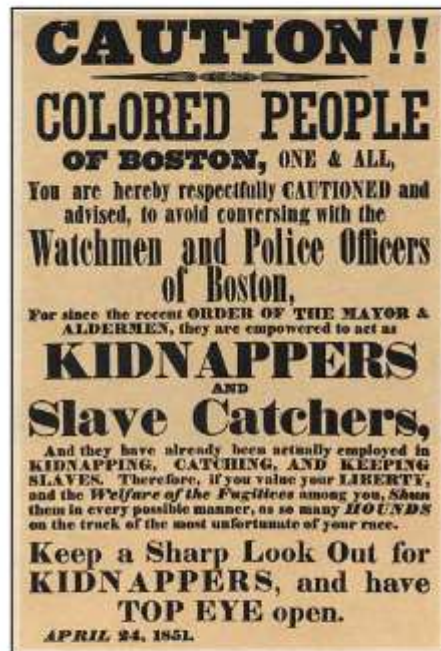


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fugitive Slave law



When the Compromise of 1850 was passed, President Millard Fillmore called the Compromise a “final settlement” on the issue of slavery in the United States. Americans would soon learn that President Fillmore was wrong. The **Fugitive Slave Act of 1850** made everyone help catch slaves. Anyone who did not help could be thrown in jail. Judges who sent black Americans South would receive \$10, while if the black Americans were freed, the judge would only receive \$5. As you can guess, many black Americans were being sent South to be slaves, whether they actually were fugitive slaves or not.

Most Northerners did not really care about slavery. While many thought it was wrong, they weren't angry enough to do anything about it. With the Fugitive Slave Law, these same people were forced to support slavery. This, they were very angry about. Mobs broke out to free captured black Americans and attack slave hunters. Juries refused to convict people accused of not helping catch fugitive slaves.

These actions greatly worried the South. The Compromise of 1850 was supposed to make both sides happy, not angry. If the Northerners refused to follow the Fugitive Slave Law, what would stop them from trying to stop slavery down South?

Document 4

17) What is a "fugitive"?

18) What did the Fugitive Slave Law say?

19) Why would a Northerner who maybe didn't care about slavery start caring?

20) Do you think the Fugitive Slave Law was fair? Why or why not?

21) Why did the North and South each become angry?