

## THE GYPSY KING ON HABEAS CORPUS

Chief Justice Clark Issues Writ  
in Case of Steve Jolin Re-  
turnable in Raleigh This  
Afternoon

A new turn was given the affairs of the Gypsy King Steve Jolin now being held in the New Hanover jail when his attorney, A. L. Cobb, Esq., of Wilmington, appeared before the chief justice, Hon. Walter Clark, and prayed that a writ of habeas corpus be issued. The chief justice, after considering the petition, granted the writ, and the mandate of the court was duly issued directing Sheriff Cowan of New Hanover to produce the Gypsy chief before Chief Justice Clark to-day, at chambers in Raleigh.

Mr. Cobb has been in Raleigh for several days looking after the interests of his client, and, as was reported in *The News and Observer* yesterday, argued the matter of requisition before the Governor. The writ of habeas corpus is sued out for the purpose of releasing the "King" from bondage pending the Governor's final decision as to requisition.

The petition filed before the chief justice states, among other things, that the chief is an old man of more than seventy years of age, that he is confined in a small cage in the New Hanover jail together with such a number of other prisoners that he can not sit down in comfort and that the cage is so crowded that needed sleep and rest are impossible, that his health is in imminent danger of being impaired thereby entailing permanent injury; that while he has not been found guilty of any crime under the laws of this or any other State and has not been committed to await trial he is yet denied bail.

It seems that this was done without a finding by the justice that John was a fugitive from justice or that there was "probable cause," that the justice committed the chief merely upon information that he was a fugitive from justice and a warrant from the clerk of a court in Arkansas without making an inquiry and adjudging the facts.

It is said that Steve John has demeaned himself, during the four or five years he has lived in this State, most of the time in or near Raleigh, in a seemly manner and has never given cause for complaint. It is charged by the attorney for John that the charges in Arkansas are retaliatory measures taken by the Mitchells, who were worsted in several suits by the Johns, particularly in Wadesboro, Memphis and in the recovery of Flora John, the daughter of Steve, from a band of Gypsies, headed by Joe Mitchell, the prosecuting witness in the Arkansas case. Steve John appealed to the courts of Arkansas and was given possession of his child, very much against the will of the Mitchell clan. It is in connection with this last case that Joe Mitchell has charged Steve John with perjury and succeeded in getting the Governor of Arkansas to make requisition for Steve. The old chief, Steve John, is said to be worth several hundred thousand dollars. The John brothers and their followers seem to be above the average of Gypsies in intelligence, wealth and manner of life. They look closely after their people and property, and it is said retain regularly in the several States in which they have interests, the best legal talent.

The outcome of the struggle between the Mitchells and Johns, which started in this State at Wadesboro last year in the endeavor of "King" Mitchell to levy tribute from the Johns and has since been continued in several other States, will be watched with interest.

The Johns seem to have had the best of the first few rounds of the legal battles.

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