

SINGULAR CASE—AN OATH OF ALLEGIANCE BETWEEN TWO NOTED CHARACTERS—LOVE CORRESPONDENCE, &c —
It will be recollected, that some years ago, a negro named Pete Sewally was arrested on a charge of vagrancy, in parading the streets in female attire, enticing men and boys into alleys, and practising the most revolting offences, and, when opportunity favored, robbing his victims. His practices were of such a terrible revolting and peculiar character, that the *sobriquet* of Beefsteak Pete was applied to him. He was sent up to the Island for six months as a vagrant, and since that time he has been repeatedly sent back. A few nights since, a genteel looking fellow named John Williams, *alias* Lyness, who has not stuck very rigidly to the paths of honesty, but has been before the court for robbing his employers, was arrested for stealing some packages of Moffat's Life Pills, worth \$1, and in his company the notorious Beefsteak Pete was also found. Williams was fully committed for the second offence, and Pete sent up for six months as a vagrant. On searching Peter, the following singular document was found :—

"I Joseph Liness Do Hereby certify that I have taken an oath in the presence of Theodore Augustus Jackson that I will be a friend to Peter Sewalry till Death Separates us He giving me the privilege to marry the girl of my choice provided She is beyond a doubt virtuous I also Swear to tell him everything of the least moment that transpires concerning either of us through Life and this I do voluntarily Swear before God & man"

"Signed

JOSEPH LINESS

oct 3rd 1844"

Another document was found in the pocket of Williams, signed by Pete, threatening him with officers Hathwaite and Ruckle, unless he gave up all claims to some clothing he had in his possession.

The following letter from this *inamorata* of master John was also found :—

June th11 1843 Dear Sir

I take this opportunity to inform you that I am in tolerable health att present hoping that this letter may find you enjoying the same blessing I arrived home on friday evening found the family in good health except little Angeline she was buried last month we should be plezed to to have you come within the space of two or three weeks; otherwise not forget to write

We pick winter green for pass time

if you dont know what they be You can come & see

Direct your letter to Olive, Post office

Ulster county, New York

Almyra C to mr Joseph Lyness.