
A TEST OF VACCINATION.

When it was announced the other day that George Fred Williams could not be present at the love-feast and council held by Governor-elect Douglas and others because he had a case to argue before the United States supreme court at Washington, it was not also stated how vastly important and interesting to every man, woman and child in Massachusetts that case was. It is only necessary to say, to arouse attention at once, that on its decision hinges the right of the state to compel the vaccination of its citizens.

For some time the Massachusetts anti-compulsory vaccination society has been fighting the law through the means of one **Henning Jacobson**, who has borne the personal brunt of the battle cheerfully enough because he believed that he was right and the authorities wrong. The case worked its way up through all the state courts, the supreme judicial declaring that the compulsory law was constitutional. It then went to Washington.

Now the place of final arbitrament has been reached. The word that shall come from that august bench will be momentous for the whole country. It will say whether or not a state has the right to scratch the arm of any of its citizens for the prevention of pestilence; whether or not boards of health are superior to the likes and dislikes of some members of the community; whether or not a proved preventive of a loathsome disease shall be imposed upon those who do not believe in it. We are of the opinion that the supreme court of the United States will declare for the principal of compulsory vaccination.—Boston Journal.