LAW OF DELAWARE.

An act relating to Fugitives from Labor.

Section 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Delaware in General Assembly met,* That when a person held to labor or service, in any of the United States, or in either of the territories thereof, under the laws thereof, shall escape into this state, the person to whom such labor or service is due, his or her agent or attorney, is hereby authorised to apply to any judge or justice of any court of record or to any justice of the peace, or to any burgess of a borough or town corporate, who on such application supported by the oath or affirmation of such claimant agent or attorney, that said fugitive hath escaped from his or her service, or from the service of the person for whom he is agent or attorney, shall grant his warrant under his hand & seal, and directed to any sheriff or constable, authorising and impowering said sheriff or constable to seize and arrest the said fugitive, who shall be named in said warrant, and to bring said fugitive before said officer issuing said warrant, or before some other judge or justice of a court of record, or some justice of the peace or burgess of a borough or town corporate, which said warrant shall be in the form or to the effect following, viz—

'State of Delaware, ——— county, ss. To the sheriff or any constable of said county. This is to authorise and require you to seize and arrest the body of ———, said to be the slave (or servant as the case may be,) of ———, and him or her, to bring forthwith before me or some judge of said state, or justice of the peace, in and for said county, (if in New Castle county, add "or some burgess of the borough of Wilmington,) to be dealt with as the law directs;" by virtue of which precept, the said fugitive named therein, may be arrested by the officer to whom the same is delivered in any part of this state.

Sec. 2. *And be it enacted*, That the said fugitive when so arrested, shall be brought before the officer in that behalf named, and upon proof to the satisfaction of such officer, that the person so seized or arrested, doth under the laws of the state or territory from which he or she fled, owe service or labor to the person claiming him or her, it shall be the duty of such judge or other officer aforesaid to give a certificate thereof to such claimant, his or her agent or attorney which shall be sufficient warrant for removing the said fugitive to the state or territory from which he or she fled.

Sec. 3 *And be it enacted*, That if any person or persons shall obstruct or hinder such sheriff, constable, claimant, agent or attorney in so seizing arresting or removing such fugitive from labor, or shall rescue, or aid, or abet the rescue of such fugitive from such sheriff, constable, claimant, agent or attorney, or shall assemble together with intention to interrupt such sheriff, constable, claimant, agent or attorney in the due execution of this act, they shall on conviction thereof, by indictment, forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars and be imprisoned for a period not less than three months nor more than twelve months, and shall be liable to an action at the suit of the owner of said fugitive for damages.

Sec 4. *And be it enacted*, That if any captain or commander of any vessel, or other person, shall carry or transport by water, or cause to be carried or transported by water out of this state, any person held to labor or service, by any citizen or inhabitant of this state, or by any citizen or inhabitant of any other of the United States, or either of the territories thereof; and who may have escaped into this state, such captain or commander or other person, shall pay to the owner of such person held to labor or service, the sum of five hundred dollars to be recovered by an action on the case; or on conviction thereof by indictment, be subject to a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, and imprisoned not less than three, nor more than twelve months, at the election of the party aggrieved; and such election shall be determined by his bringing his action on the case or instituting his prosecution by indictment, and if any negro or mulatto shall carry or transport by water any person held to labor or service as aforesaid, he shall on conviction thereof by indictment be punished by fine and imprisonment or by being whipped with thirty-nine stripes, in the discretion of the court.

Sec. 5 *And be it enacted*, That if any suspicious colored person shall be taken up travelling in or through this government without having sufficient pass signed by some justice or proper officer of the place from whence he or she came approved and renewed by some justice of the peace in the parts through which such person hath travelled, or shall not otherwise be able to give a good and satisfactory account of him or herself to the justice before whom he or she shall be brought, such person shall by the said justice be committed to the goal of the county where he or she shall be taken up, and be deemed to be, and dealt withal, as a runaway servant

Sec. 6. *And be it enacted*, That this act shall be given in charge to the grand juries, by the judges of the court of quarter sessions of this state at their respective sessions of said court.

(*Passed January* 19, 1826)

CHARLES POLK,
Speaker of the Senate.

ARNA. NAUDAIN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

I do hereby certify, that the foregoing is a true copy of an act entitled "An act relating to fugitives from labor," passed at Dover the 19th day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand, eighteen hundred and twenty-six.

EDWARD FISHER, Clerk of the Senate of the State of Delaware.

LAW OF PENNSYLVANIA.

An Act to give effect to the provisions of the Constitution of the United States relative to fugitives from labor for the protection of Free People of Color and to prevent kidnapping.

Sec. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That if any person or persons shall from and after the passing of this act by force or violence take and carry away or cause to be taken and carried away or shall by fraud or false pretence seduce or cause to be seduced or shall attempt so to take, carry away, or seduce any negro or mulatto from any part or parts of this commonwealth to any other place or places whatsoever out of this commonwealth with a design and intention of selling and disposing of, or of causing to be sold or of keeping and detaining, or of causing to be kept and detained such negro or mulatto as a slave or servant for life or for any term whatsoever, every such person or persons, his or their aiders and abettors shall on conviction thereof in any court of this commonwealth having competent jurisdiction, be deemed guilty of a felony and shall forfeit and pay at the discretion of the court passing the sentence, any sum not less than five hundred nor more than two thousand dollars, one half whereof shall be paid to the person or persons who shall prosecute for the same and the other half to this commonwealth and moreover shall be sentenced to undergo a servitude for any term or time not less than seven years; nor exceeding 21 years, and shall be confined and kept to hard labor fed and clothed in the manner as is directed by the penal laws of this commonwealth for persons convicted of robbery.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That if any person or persons shall hereafter knowingly sell, transfer or assign, or shall knowingly purchase, take a transfer or assignment of any negro or mulatto for the purpose of fraudulently removing, exporting or carrying such negro or mulatto out of this state, with the design or intent by fraud or false pretences of making him or her a slave or servant for life or for any term whatsoever every person so offending, shall be deemed guilty of a felony, & on conviction thereof, shall forfeit and pay a fine of not less than five hundred dollars nor more than two thousand dollars, one half whereof shall be paid to the person or persons who shall prosecute for the same, and the other hall to this commonwealth, and moreover, shall be sentenced at the discretion of the court, to undergo a servitude for any term or time not less than seven years, nor exceeding 21 years, and shall be confined, kept to hard labor, fed and clothed in the manner as is directed by the penal laws of this commonwealth for persons convicted of robbery.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That when a person held to labor or service in any of the United States or in either of the territories thereof, under the laws thereof, shall escape into this commonwealth, the person to whom such labor or service is due, his or her duly authorised agent or attorney, constituted in writing, is hereby authorised to apply to any judge, justice of the peace, or alderman; who on such application, supported by the oath or affirmation of such claimant or authorised agent, or attorney as aforesaid; that the said fugitive hath escaped from his or her service, or from the service of the person for whom he is duly constituted agent or attorney, shall issue his warrant under his hand & seal, and directed to the sheriff or any constable of the proper city or county, authorising and empowering said sheriff or constable to arrest and seize the said fugitive who shall be named in said warrant and to bring said fugitive before a judge of the proper county, which said warrant shall be in the form or to the effect following:—

"State of Pennsylvania, ——— county, ss. The commonwealth of Pennsylvania to the sheriff or any constable of ——— county, greeting: Whereas it appears by the oath or solemn affirmation of ———, that ——— was held to labor or service to ——— of ——— county, in the state of ———, and that the said ——— hath escaped from the labor and service of the said ———. You are therefore commanded to arrest and seize the body of the said ———, if he be found in your county, and bring him forthwith before the person issuing the warrant, if a judge (or if a justice of the peace or alderman) before a judge of the court of common pleas or of the district court as the case may be, of your proper county or recorder of a city, so that the truth of the matter may be inquired into, and the said ——— be dealt with as the constitution of the United States, and the laws of this commonwealth directs. Witness our said judge or (alderman or justice as the case may be, at ——— this ——— day of ——— A. D. one thousand eight hundred and ———.' By virtue of such warrant, the person, named therein may be arrested by the proper sheriff or constable to whom the same shall be delivered within the proper city or county.'

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That no judge justice of the peace, or alderman, shall issue a warrant on the application of any agent or attorney as provided in the said third section, unless the said agent or attorney shall in addition to his own oath or affirmation, produce the affidavit of the claimant of the fugitive taken before and certified by a justice of the peace or other magistrate authorised to administer oaths in the state or territory in which such claimant shall reside, and accompanied by the certificate of the authority of such justice or other magistrate, to administer oaths signed by the clerk or prothonotary, and authenticated by the seal of a court of record in such state or territory, which affidavit shall state the said claimant's title to the service of such fugitive, and also the name, age and description of the person of such fugitive.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That it shall be the duty of any judge, justice of the peace or alderman; when he grants or issues any warrant under the provisions of the third section of this act to make a fair record on his docket of the same in which he shall enter the name and place of residence of the person on whose oath or affirmation the said warrant may be granted; and also, if an affidavit shall have been produced under the provisions of the fourth section of this act, the name and place of residence of the person making such affidavit, and the age and description of the person of the alledged fugitive contained in such affidavit, and shall within ten days thereafter file a certified copy thereof in the office of the clerk of the court of general quarter sessions of the peace or mayor's court of the proper city or county. And any judge, justice of the peace or alderman who shall refuse or neglect to comply with the provisions of this section, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor in office, and shall on conviction thereof be sentenced to pay at the discretion of the court any sum not exceeding one thousand dollars; one half to the party prosecuting for the same, and the other half to the commonwealth:—And that any sheriff or constable receiving and executing the said warrant shall without unnecessary delay carry the person arrested before the judge according to the exigency of the warrant; and any sheriff or constable who shall refuse or wilfully neglect, so to do, shall on conviction thereof be sentenced to pay at the discretion of the court any sum not exceeding five hundred dollars; one half to the party prosecuting for the same, and the other half to the commonwealth; or shall also be sentenced to imprisonment at hard labor for a time not exceeding six months or both.

Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That the said fugitive from labor or service, when so arrested shall be brought before a judge as aforesaid, and upon proof to the satisfaction of such judge, that the person so seized or arrested, doth under the laws of the state or territory, from which he or she fled, owe service or labour to the person claiming him or her; it shall be the duty of such judge to give a certificate thereof to such claimant, his or her duly authorised agent or attorney, which shall be sufficient warrant for removing the said fugitive to the state or territory from which he or she fled.—*Provided*, That the oath of the owner or owners, or other person interested shall in no case be received in evidence before the judge on the hearing of the case.

Sec 7. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That when the fugitive shall be brought before the judge agreeably to the provisions of this act, and either party alledge and prove to the satisfaction of the said judge, that he or she is not prepared for trial, and have testimony material to the matter in controversy than can be obtained in a reasonable time, it shall and may be lawful unless security satisfactory to the said judge be given for the appearance of the said fugitive on a day certain, to commit the said fugitive to the common jail for safe keeping, there to be detained at the expense of the owner, agent or attorney for such time as the said judge shall think reasonable and just, and to a day certain, when the said fugitive shall be brought before him by habeas corpus in the court-house of the proper county or in term time at the chamber of the said judge for final hearing and adjudication: *Provided*, That if the adjournment of the hearing be requested by the claimant, his agent or attorney, such adjournment shall not be granted unless the said claimant his agent or attorney, shall give security satisfactory to the judge to appear and prosecute his claim on the day to which the hearing shall be adjourned: *Provided*, That on the hearing last mentioned, if the judge committing the said fugitive or taking the security as aforesaid, should be absent, sick or otherwise unable to attend, it shall be the duty of either of the other judges on notice given to attend to the said hearing and to decide thereon.

Sec 8. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That the officers which may or shall be employed in the execution of the duties of this act, shall be allowed the same fees for service of process that sheriffs within this commonwealth are now allowed for serving process in criminal cases, and two dollars and fifty cents per day for each and every day necessarily spent in performing the duties enjoined on them by this act, to be paid by the owner, agent or attorney immediately on the performance of the duties aforesaid.

Sec. 9. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That no alderman or justice of the peace of this commonwealth shall have jurisdiction or take cognizance of the case of any fugitive from labor from any of the United States or territories under a certain act of congress, passed on the twelfth day of February, one thousand seven hundred and ninety three, entitled "An act respecting fugitives from justice, and persons escaping from the service of their masters," nor shall any alderman or justice of the peace of this commonwealth issue or grant any certificate or warrant of removal of any such fugitive from labor as aforesaid, except in the manner and to the effect provided in the third section of this act, upon the application, affidavit or testimony of any person or persons whatsoever under the said act of congress, or under any other law, authority or act of the congress of the U. States; and if any alderman or justice of the peace of this commonwealth, shall contravene the provisions of this act, take cognizance or jurisdiction of the case of any such fugitive as aforesaid, except in the manner herein before provided, or shall grant or issue any certificate or warrant of removal as aforesaid, then and in either case he shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor in office and shall on conviction thereof be sentenced to pay at the discretion of the court any sum not less than five hundred dollars nor exceeding one thousand dollars; the one half to the party prosecuting for the same, and the other half to the use of this commonwealth.

Sec. 10. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That it shall be the duty of the judge or recorder of any court of record of this commonwealth when he grants or issues any certificate or warrant of removal of any negro or mulatto claimed to be a fugitive from labor to the state or territory from he or she fled in pursuance of an act of congress, passed on the twelfth day of February, one thousand seven hundred and ninety three, entitled "An act respecting fugitives from justice and persons escaping from the service of their masters" and of this act, to make a fair record of the same in which he shall enter the name, age sex and a general description of the person of the negro or mulatto for whom he shall grant such certificate or warrant of removal, together with the evidence and the name of places of residence of the witnesses and the party claiming such negro or mulatto and shall within ten days thereafter file a certified copy thereof in the office of the clerk of the court of general quarter sessions of the peace or mayor's court of the city or county in which he may reside.

Sec. 11. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That nothing in this act contained shall be construed as a repeal or alteration of any part of an act of assembly passed on the first day of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty, entitled 'An act for the gradual abolition of slavery,' except the eleventh section of said act which is hereby repealed and supplied, nor of any part of an act of assembly passed on the twenty eighth day of March one thousand seven hundred and eighty eight, entitled "An act to explain and amend an act for the gradual abolition of slavery' except the seventh section of this last mentioned act which is hereby supplied and repealed.

I certify that the foregoing is a copy of an act passed at the present session by both branches of the legislature of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand at Harrisburg, the 23d March, 1826.

FRANCIS R. SHUNK, Clerk
Of the House of Representatives.

We understand the following Circulars, have been forwarded to the levy courts of the several counties in this State.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

Annapolis, March 15th, 1827.

SIR,

The law of Public Instruction in Primary Schools, having been adopted by a large majority of the people, it has become important to the great interests of the State, that the earliest measures should be taken to accelerate the organization of the system, with a view to the speediest practical commencement of its beneficial operations. The Superintendent, therefore, hastens to transmit the instruction, which have been deemed necessary to guide the commissioners in their first duty of dividing their county into a '*suitable and convenient, number of School Districts*;' and he respectfully requests that at your earliest convenience, you will convoke a special meeting of your Honorable Court, as authorised by the law, for the purpose of appointing such commissioners; and of delivering to them the said instructions, in order that they may proceed, forthwith, in the due discharge of their high duties.

With great respect, I have the honour to be, Sir, your very obedient servant,

LITTLETON DENNIS TEACKLE.
Superintendent of Public Instruction.

To the Honourable *Esquire*
President of the Levy Court of
County.

Department of Public Instruction.

ANNAPOLIS, March 15, 1827.

Instructions to the Commissioners of Primary Schools, relative to the division of their County into School Districts.

In the performance of this duty you will pursue the tenor and spirit of the Act to provide for the public instruction, of youth, in Primary Schools, throughout this State,' passed at December Session, 1825; chapter 162; which, in section 5, requires that you, or a majority of you, shall divide your County into a '*suitable and convenient*' number of School Districts; in doing which you will have regard to existing school houses, where such there be, as far as practicable; in order that the charge upon the resident inhabitants, especially in the first establishment of the system, may not exceed what is absolutely and indispensably necessary. And, although the extent of five miles square, has been assumed as convenient for such districts, as a general rule, you are not to be governed by that assumption exclusively, but will yield to localities, & circumstances. In sections of sparse population it may be proper to form the districts equal to an area of six, seven, or eight miles square, whilst in more dense, or concentrated settlements, a smaller compass may be adopted—but it will, naturally, occur to you that the square will not be the most suitable, or convenient form; and that in the absence of more palpable boundaries such as bays, rivers, creeks, mountains, or remarkable hills, roads, established fences, or other lines of demarcation, the most eligible marks of description may be the different dwellings, or places of public worship, or other houses, and distinguishing from house to house, around the school house as a common centre, reserving always that every dwelling without the line, which may have been omitted, or overlooked, and all such as may thereafter be erected, during the continuance of the district, shall, of right, belong to the nearest school house. In many cases, however, you will find it necessary to circumscribe a district by its natural limits, such as a small island, on which there may not be a sufficient number of children for the support of a school, and which cannot conveniently, be attached to any adjacent district; in such cases, as the distribution of the public money will be in proportion to the number of children, it will be necessary, to enable the inhabitants to partake of the benefits of the law, for them to provide the residue of means to complete the salary of their teacher, or to graduate the duration of their school according to the amount distributed to them. And the like necessity will equally occur in every peninsula, or long neck of land, or district of sparse population; but such occurrences, it may be hoped, will be found rare.

Having finished the division of your County into a '*suitable, and convenient number of School Districts*, according to the best of your discretion and judgment, you will proceed to describe and number the same, and to deliver the description and number thereof, to the Clerk of your County Court, to be recorded as required by section 8 of the Act in question, for which purpose the public advertisements, herewith transmitted, have been prepared; and you will take care that not less than five of these notices be put up in the most public places of each of the said districts.

It is desired that the duties required by these instructions may be completed as soon as practicable, that the Trustees, and other officers of each respective corporation may be elected, that each and all may proceed harmoniously, & that the expected benefits may be commenced and realized with as little delay as possible—in all which the liberal spirit and patriotic zeal of your good people will be most worthily manifested.

The foregoing arrangements are necessarily required in anticipation of the essential appropriation, and assignment of means, for carrying the system into efficient, and beneficial operation; and that their completion and organization will produce an effect so ardently desired by all the friends of public instruction, cannot be questioned upon any just, or reasonable ground—in the mean time, the existing funds for free and County Schools, and the dividends arising from subsequent investments are yielding revenues, comparatively, greater than the means allotted by New York at the commencement of her system, and additional aid may be expected from the next Congress.

It may also be proper to remark that the amendments, which seemed to be, most generally, demanded; and the equal admission of the whole State, to a common participation of all the benefits of this munificence, were passed through the popular branch at the last session of the General Assembly; but the difficulties which arose in harmonizing the contrariety of opinion, and adjusting the various details, were such as to protract a decision, to so late a period, that sufficient time was not allowed, to the other branch, for the deliberate consideration, and determination of that interesting concernment—being, however, thus matured, the matter will doubtless engage the early attention of the next convention of the legislature

Your communications, through the President of your board, are respectfully requested, and every information which may be required will be cheerfully imparted.

LITTLETON DENNIS TEACKLE.
Superintendent of Public Instruction.

IMPORTANT FROM COLOMBIA.

By the schooner Eliza Piggot, Davis, arrived at Philadelphia, Mr. Sanderson, of the Coffee House, has received a letter dated Laguyra, March 13th, of which the following is an extract:

"I enclose you the first copy of the 'Lira' a new paper, which it is intended to publish at Caraccas. You will therein find that the Grand American Federation is spoken of. Bolivar's resignation is also therein. His resignation is, however, only to pave the way to place himself a step higher, as there is little doubt that four months will not elapse, before there will be a union of Peru, Colombia, and Bolivia, and Bolivar appointed President for life."

The project of a union of Bolivia, Peru and Colombia, is highly applauded in the 'Lira.' The cause of liberty in general is not likely to be advanced by the confederation of military republics; but it is generally supposed that any kind of government is preferable to anarchy.

ABDICATION OF THE LIBERATOR.

HEAD QUARTERS,
Caraccas, Feb. 6 1827.

To his Excellency the President
of the honourable body of the Senate:

Most Excellent Sir: In no former circumstances has the august authority of Congress been of such necessity to the republic as at this present period, in which every mind has been disturbed, and the whole nation agitated, by internal commotions.

Called by your Excellency to take the oath of office as President of the Republic I arrived at the capital, whence I was speedily summoned to the departments of the ancient Venezuela.—From Bogota to this city I have issued decrees so important, that I make bold to declare it of the greatest moment that your Excellency should call the attention of Congress to them, and request that body, from me, to take them into their wise consideration. If I have

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