DOCUMENT
Relative to Absconding Slaves, &c.
CONCLUDED.

Copy of a letter from his excellency the Governor of Maryland, to their Excellencies the Governors of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware, respectively, relative to absconding Slaves.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,
Annapolis, January 16, 1826.

SIR,

The immense losses sustained by the citizens of this State by the absconding of Slaves, and the great difficulty experienced in recovering them, have been deemed of sufficient importance to induce the Legislature to make a solemn appeal to the Governments of those States, in which the greatest portion of such fugitives are known to seek refuge, for their aid in arresting this growing evil. For this purpose, the bearers hereof, Ezekiel F. Chambers, Esq. a member of the Senate, and Archibald Lee and Robert H. Goldsborough, of the House of Delegates, have been appointed a joint committee, to confer with the Legislature of Pennsylvania, upon the measures best calculated to remedy the grievance so sensibly felt, and which I assure your excellency, is of very serious magnitude and general concern to all holders of slaves.

With the fullest confidence, that the gentlemen deputed upon this interesting business, will be received in the friendly and conciliatory spirit in which they have been appointed, and that, with the disposition, which no doubt, is entertained, that your excellency, as well as the Legislature of the State over which you preside, will feel, to meet the views, and accomplish the objects of their mission, we cannot doubt of a successful issue.

With the highest consideration,
We have the honor to be,
Your excellency's most ob't. serv't.
JOS. KENT.

His excellency John Andrew Shultze,
Governor of Pennsylvania.

A letter similar to the above, with the proper alterations where the name of the State occurs, addressed to each of the Governors of Delaware and New-Jersey, respectively.

Report of the Committee to Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware, relative to absconding Slaves &c.

A Report of the deputation consisting of Ezekiel F. Chambers, late a member of the Senate, and Archibald Lee and Robert H. Goldsborough, members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the General Assembly of the State of Maryland, to the Legislatures of the States of Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, with authority to negotiate with the Legislatures of said States, for the purpose of procuring such aid, by legislative provisions or otherwise, as may be most effectual, for the recovery of persons bound to, or owing service or labour to citizens of Maryland, who have heretofore absconded, or who shall hereafter abscond or flee from Maryland, into any of the said States.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY
JOSEPH KENT,
Governor of Maryland.

SIR,

In obedience to a resolution of the Legislature of Maryland, at their late session, we, the undersigned, have the honor to make you the following

REPORT:

In pursuance of instructions from the General Assembly of Maryland, the undersigned left Annapolis on the 10th of January last, and went on to Dover, the seat of the government of the State of Delaware. His excellency Mr. Painter, the Governor of that State, not being at the seat of government at the time of their arrival, and the Secretary of State being unfortunately confined to his country residence by domestic afflictions, they procured their credentials to the legislative body, to be presented through a distinguished member of the Senate, and, soon after, the undersigned were most respectfully recognized in their public character, by both branches.

A joint committee of both houses, as a committee of conference, consisting of seven gentlemen, was immediately appointed, and the undersigned met them, by invitation, the same afternoon.

Before the committee, & in presence of the other members of the legislature, who attended their session in the Senate chamber, the undersigned explained and enforced the particular objects of their commission.

A bill having been immediately reported by the committee, was introduced into the Senate, and after examination and debate, was passed through that body, with only one or two dissenting voices, in full Senate. When the bill was sent to the house, it was fully discussed and deliberated on, and although there was not an entire unanimity of opinion, in relation to some of its provisions; yet, when the bill was put upon its final passage, there was no dissenting vote. This bill was before the two houses of the Legislature, from Monday until the following Thursday at noon, when the amendments of the house were adopted by the senate, and it engrossed the attention of one house or the other, constantly, during that period, both in their morning and evening sessions. The undersigned were gratified at seeing each section of the bill so deliberately weighed and strictly scrutinized, both as it regarded the principles it contained, and its relation to the existing interests of the state of Delaware, as it was the best indication of a disposition to enact a permanent measure.

A copy of the law was politely presented to the undersigned as hereto annexed, who left Dover that afternoon, upon their ulterior destination.

Arriving at Philadelphia, the undersigned thought it highly expedient to ascertain the state of public opinion in relation to the subject of their mission, to a state where the abolition of slavery had been a favorite object, and was nearly accomplished.

After as diligent an inquiry as they could prosecute, in the short time allowed them, they had no indication that there existed a disposition adverse to the object of their mission.

Notwithstanding the Legislature of New-Jersey was not in session, and not likely to be in session for nine months to come, the undersigned concluded that their instructions, and the nature of their duty, required, that they should visit the Governor of that State in its recess, that they might make known to his excellency, the wishes of the General Assembly of Maryland, in instituting this deputation, and endeavor to prevail with him to lay the subject before the Legislature of New-Jersey, at their next session.

Upon their arrival at Elizabeth-Town, the residence of Governor Williamson, they found, with much regret, that his extreme illness made it impossible for him to receive them.

They forwarded to his excellency, Note No. 1, accompanying this report, to which they received a verbal message, that the Governor was too ill to attend to any business, but would take up the subject to which the undersigned had called his attention, at the first moment of returning health. The undersigned then sent Note No. 2, to his excellency, and immediately returned to Pennsylvania, with all convenient speed.

On their arrival at Harrisburg, the seat of government of Pennsylvania, the undersigned were presented to his excellency Governor Shultz, by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, to whose polite attentions, they owe their acknowledgments, and were received by the Governor in a manner the most gratifying. He received the credentials of the undersigned, and promptly forwarded them to the Legislature, from both branches of which the undersigned received distinguished attentions, as soon as they were made known in their public character.

A joint committee of twelve was appointed to confer with them, and an invitation was given to disclose and explain their objects before the committee, in presence of both houses. This invitation was accepted, and the occasion was used by the undersigned to urge and enforce (as they had done in Delaware,) the imperative obligation of the Federal Constitution: the positive claims of the States in which slaves are held, to a faithful and effective execution of the duty imposed by the third paragraph of the second section, 4th article of that instrument; the various motives of expediency which concurred to make it the policy, as well as the duty, of the State of Pennsylvania to do justice to her sister State; and the very serious causes of dissatisfaction, and the great apprehension of antipathies and recriminations, in the event of her refusal to remove difficulties which many citizens of Maryland had been led to believe were deliberately multiplied for the direct purpose of obstructing their rights, although these rights were sanctioned by the supreme law, which the Legislature of a single State cannot control, and the guarantee of which rights, formed indeed, one of the leading pillars on which the union of the States is sustained. They also urged the obvious duty, as well as the plain policy of substituting facilities, as, without which, the provisions of the law, ackowledged to be supreme, would, in effect, be rendered inefficient for the avowed object of its enactment; and they finally presented such views of the subject as seemed to demonstrate that the direct interest of Pennsylvania would be promoted by the same legislation, which should discharge the positive obligation imposed upon her, and gratify the reasonable expectations of Maryland; referring to the correspondence between the two States, in 1823, as evincive of the just ground of expectation on the part of our State, which had instituted this deputation, as a measure the most friendly, and at the same time, the most acceptable to the government of Pennsylvania.

The undersigned had the gratification to see a bill very soon reported by the joint committee, in accordance with the views of the subject presented by them; alterations however, were made in the bill, in its passage through the House of Representatives; the result of hostility, as the undersigned were led to believe, growing entirely out of a mistaken apprehension of its import, and a false view of its object, by individuals who, in the progress of its discussion, had been excited to an opposition against it.

The changes made in the bill after it was reported to the House of Representatives, were based upon the following grounds, viz:—1st, to take from the bill, after careful examination, every thing that was not essential to obtain the object desired; and to avoid, because unnecessary, any detail or summary of common law remedies against rioters and obstructors of the execution of the law. 2dly. To adapt the bill, as far as could be done, without rendering it ineffectual, to the taste and sentiments of its fair and reasonable opponents.

The bill then passed the House of Representatives, was sent to the senate where it had no prospect of an early consideration as that body was actively engaged as a court of impeachment, in trying one of the judges. The Maryland Legislature was hastening to close its session, and the undersigned believed it their duty to return, & accordingly took their leave of the Legislature of Pennsylvania.

Some weeks after the close of the Maryland Legislature the undersigned received intelligence that the Senate of Pennsylvania had considered and passed the bill, and through the polite attention of a member of the House, they obtained an attested copy of the act, which accompanies this report.

In this bill the Legislature of Pennsylvania have embodied all their law in relation to fugitives from labor, and for the protection of their own free people of color.

A difference will be remarked in the provisions of the law of Delaware, passed on this subject, and of that of Pennsylvania; a difference called for by the local situation of the two States and adapted to the particular state of things incident to each. In Delaware, more provisions, and very different ones were required, from those most essential in Pennsylvania, because the territory of Delaware, being a narrow district of country lying in its greatest extent, between the Maryland line and the Delaware bay, which separates it from New Jersey, and in its northern extremity lying between Maryland & Pennsylvania; it was rather the thoroughfare for the Maryland fugitives from labor, than the asylum sought by them. It became indispensably necessary therefore not only to obtain from Delaware every proper and the most prompt facilities to arrest these fugitives within that State, but to require that she should not lend her territory to aid their escape, knowing as she did, that it was their common pass way. For this latter purpose, the undersigned urged, and procured a provision in the Delaware law, guarding against the transportation by water of fugitives from labour; which to Maryland was a most important part of the law. This provision is equally beneficial to the holders of slaves in Delaware, as it afforded like protection against the transportation by water of their own slaves, which is understood to be the most common mode of their escape. Thus the undersigned had the satisfaction of knowing that whilst the Legislature of Delaware were cheerfully performing an obligation absolutely due to her sister State of Maryland, they were, at the same time rendering an equal service to their own fellow citizens of Delaware, in the protection of a great interest. To have pretended that the duty to "surrender up," did not literally include a denial of transit through the State, and on that account to have refused all provisions to prevent such transit, would have been a nicety, or rather an equivocation, inconsistant with the fair mindedness of an intelligent legislature; and an attempt to take shelter under terms, to render a compact null, and to defeat its object, would have been a course entirely unworthy such men as composed the Legislature of Delaware.

The States forming this Union have solemnly agreed among themselves, "to pass no law or regulation which shall discharge a fugitive from labor from another state or territory, from that service; but that they will surrender the fugitive to the claimant of that State to whom his services are due." Should the authorities of a State, knowing that the fugitives from labor from another State, are constantly in the habit of passing through their State to escape from their master's service, refuse to prevent it by the only means in their power, would not such a refusal be a direct invitation to the fugitives to continue to use their territory as the ready means of escape? And would not such permission be a voluntary weakening and impairing of the federal compact on their part to the known injury of another State against which injury that compact intended to guard? And would this be consistent with good faith, and with a fair and just fulfilment of a solemn obligation?

As far as the undersigned could learn, there is no part of the State of Delaware where fugitives from labor tarry any time, except in and about the borough of Wilmington, where they are said to be employed on low wages, when they arrive during the working season and are then discharged and find another asylum during winter in the alms house of Philadelphia, where a very considerable proportion of them remain in worse than profitless indolence, a dead expense upon the inhabitants of that city. Such is the unfortunate situation of the slaves who run away, that, rendered dissatisfied at home with their masters, by the representations and allurements which they hear of from abroad, most of them find a poor and scanty subsistance at first in the temporary employment they meet with, where all the labour that can be imposed on them, is exacted, for which the miserable pittance contracted for is as often withheld as paid them; and at last they generally terminate their existence after unspeakable wretchedness, in the loathsome abodes of Southwark, in Philadelphia or in alms houses or as convicts in penitentiaries.

As a farther illustration of the difference that ought to be expected between the provisions of the laws of Delaware and Pennsylvania, it may be added, that Delaware, if not universally a slave holding State is extensively so, and that justice and duty to others, was protection to herself. Delaware, like Maryland is one of the small States, and she knows how to value the delicate and important principles of that compromise which eventuated in our happy union. She, too, as well as Pennsylvania and Maryland, feels a proper devotion to the union of these States, and will therefore, always prefer to discharge her federal obligations in spirit and in truth rather than to disregard them under any pretence that may be supplied by the refined doctrines of a mistaken modern philanthropy.

The State of Pennsylvania is one of the chief places of abode for our fugitives from labour:—they generally remain in some part of the State, and the provisions of a law to surrender them to the proper claimant, after search, seizure and proof, together with authority to convey them out of the State are the most important measures here. There are specific penalties against riotous attempts at rescue, and against turbulent interferences to hinder the arrest, or the taking away the fugitive to his proper State contained in the law of Delaware, which are not in the law of Pennsylvania. The insertion of such penalties in a law is intended more to explain and to serve as a terror to wrong doers than for any other purpose; and it is thought on that account to be useful, and so far as it would have a tendency to prevent improper acts, it would be truly benevolent.

The undersigned desire to have such a specification in the law of Pennsylvania, but it was alledged, as the undersigned well knew, that such offences were punishable at common law, and in a much higher degree, in the discretion of the court, than they could be under the limitation contained in the law of Delaware. The same offences are punishable in both States. In Delaware, the punishment is limited, by the bill in question;—in Pennsylvania, it is determined by the general law.

Upon the publication of these laws, the citizens of Maryland will be able to learn their precise provisions; and it is very important that they should proceed in the recovery of their fugitives from labor in these States, in strict conformity to the law, both for the purpose of avoiding complaint and the better to secure themselves in the recovery of their property.

All which is most respectfully submitted.
EZEKIEL F. CHAMBERS,
ARCIBALD LEE,
ROBT. H GOLDSBOROUGH.

Easton Gazette.
EASTON, MD.

SATURDAY EVENING, APRIL 21.

ERROR CORRECTED.

The arch Senator Van Buren, it has been reported, had gone to the south on a political expedition to negotiate in relation to New York and General Jackson, and to arrange matters and things for next winter's Congressional Caucus to make a President, and to prepare for his ulterioure views—but the Jersey papers deny all this and explain most satisfactorily, that the object of the senator's visit was the first Green Peas of the south, so that he might enjoy the first luxuries of the season upon his return northward at every stage.

It is shrewdly suspected by the knowing ones, that the senator will add some political management to his green peas and season the whole dish with a little spice of intrigue which he is known to fling in with such masterly skill—About the 15th of next month green peas and strawberries will be making their appearance in this part of the Peninsula, where he may be (possibly) expected to partake of those dainties and to cultivate the spirit of Jacksonian opposition to the powers that be. Should any thing of this sort reach us beforehand, it shall be communicated for the benefit of all concerned.

What a tempting thing it must be to unite ourself to an opposition to place such a man as General Jackson at the head of the Government, taking him all in all—but more particularly so when it is known that such a man as the Honorable Martin Van Buren is the leader of that opposition and is the master spirit that rules every thing, and who it is now understood is preparing the machinery, a congress caucus for next winter, at which it is said he will be ready to pledge the vote of the great state of New York, *Provided*, he the said Mr. Van Buren can receive a pledge that he will be taken up as the successor of General Jackson. Can personal dislikes urge us to be connected with such projects? On this subject much is to be said.

CHESAPEAKE AND DELAWARE CANAL.

There are now more than 300 men at work on the Crosscut Canal. Two of the wharves at Delaware City, on the Delaware Bay are completed, each 200 feet long: and great exertions are using to increase the number of workmen on the whole line.—*Balt. Gaz.*

JACKSON MEETING IN CECIL.

A meeting was held at the house of George Peacock, in the Town of Elkton, Cecil county, Maryland, on the 7th of April 1827 for the purpose of appointing Delegates from Cecil county, to meet at Baltimore on the 21st of May next, for the purpose of adopting such measures as shall tend to promote and insure the election of Gen. ANDREW JACKSON as the next President of the United States.

General *Thomas M. Forman* was called to the Chair and *Tobias Rudulph* appointed Secretary.

Gen. Thomas M. Forman, Outerbridge Horsey, and John W. Comyges, Esqs. for the first election district—Col. George E. Mitchell, Tobias Rudulph, and Henry Stump, Esqs. for the 2d district—Col. William W. Ramsey, Joseph Couden, and John Marnes, Esqs. for the 3d district—and Col. James Gerry, Washington Hall, and James Janney, Esqs. for the 4th district, were appointed a Committe to attend the General Convention for the purposes aforesaid.

From the elections in Virginia, we learn that *John Randolph* will have been chosen without any opposition that we can discover to be a Representative in Congress from the State of Virginia; that *John Floyd*, though opposed, will have been re-elected, without a close contest, and *John Taliaferro* will have been chosen without any serious opposition In some counties of the latter Districts, there is no opposition to him.—We use the expression *will have been*, because, by a mode of election peculiar to Virginia, the elections take place in the several counties in each district on the several Mondays in the month of April.

Nat. Intel.

THE BRITISH MAIL PACKET.

The Hermaphrodite brig Emily, Capt. Hughes, arrived at this port on Sunday last, in 9 days from Bermuda, with the British mail of February from England, in charge of Mr. Piper, of the British navy, who had also despatches for the British minister, with which Mr Moore, the agent, resident in this city, started for Washington yesterday morning.

The mail delivered at our post office, contained about 1200 letters. The papers brought by this arrival, are not of so late a date as those received last week, at New-York, owing to the long passage of the Princess Elizabeth. Their contents have of course been anticipated.—*Md. Rep.*

PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

It is to be regretted that the bills which passed the house of delegates at the last session, amending the primary school laws & appropriating funds for the support of the

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ART OF LIVING HAPPILY.

The following maxims, or rules of action might, if strictly observed go far to increase the happiness, or at least to diminish the inquietudes and miseries of life:—

Observe inviolably, truth in your words and integrity in your actions.

Accustom yourself to temperance, and be master of your passions.

Be not too much out of humour with the world; but remember it is a world of God's creating; and however sadly it is marred with wickedness and folly, yet you have found in it more comforts than calamities, more civilities than affronts, more instances of kindness towards you than of cruelty.

Try to spend your time usefully, both to yourself and others.

Never make an enemy, nor lose a friend unnecessarily.

Cultivate such an habitual cheerfulness of mind and evenness of temper, as not to be ruffled by trivial inconveniences & crosses.

Be ready to heal breaches in friendship and to make differences, and shun litigation yourself as much as possible, for he is an ill calculator that does not perceive that one amicable settlement is better than two law suits.

Be it rather your ambition to acquit yourself well in your proper station than to rise above it.

Despise not small honest gains, and do not risk what you have on the delusive prospect of sudden riches. If you are in a comfortable thriving way, keep in it, and abide your own calling rather than run the chance of another. In a word, mind to "use the world as not abusing it," and probably you will find as much comfort in it as is most fit for a frail being, who is merely journeying through it towards an immortal abode.

From the N. Y Com Adv of April 12.

ANOTHER HUMBUG.—We have not read the first part of the celebrated Morgan Book professing to disclose the secrets of Freemasonry, but a book has just been put into our hands, entitled, "*The second part of Revelations of Masonry, made by a late member of the craft,*" which we have perused. It purports to give the secrets of the higher degrees, viz: the "Degree of Mark Man;" Degree of Mark Master;" the "Architect's Degree in Masonry;" the 'Degree of Grand Architect;' the 'Degree of Scotch Master or Superintendent;' the 'Degree of Secret Master;' the Degree of Perfect Master;' the Degree of Past Master;' the "Degree of Excellent Masons;" and the "Degree of Super-excellent Masons."

Now every member of the fraternity who who has been passed and raised and advanced to the higher degrees of ancient Masonry, will smile at this enumeration; for with the exception of the degrees of Mark Master, and Past Master, we know of no such degrees in ancient Masonry. And in regard to these two, which are correctly named, we boldly pronounce the publication as impudent a hoax as was ever played off upon a credulous community. It is throughout a base calumny upon the order. We never heard of any such lectures as those given, nor of any such ceremonies, nor of any such obligations as are there set forth.

The whole is an ingenious, though a wicked fabrication.

Having taken the high degree of Knight Templar ourselves we speak understandingly and fearlessly upon this subject, and our denial of the authenticity of the book so far as we know any thing of Masonry is solemn and unqualified. If the public have a mind to buy the imposition, so be it. But we have reason to think that our course upon the Morgan affair has been so frank and impartial that we shall be believed in whatever we may say as of our own knowledge, by those who are as well as those who are not masons. And we have thought it our duty to put the public on their guard against so shameless an imposition. We have never knowingly deceived the public and we feel no more inclination to deceive them upon the subject of Morgan than any other.

A few days since, was led to the alter of Hymen, at Kilmanahan, in the county of Waterford, Biddy Connell, aged *fourteen* by Robert Cushion, aged *fifty!* Majority in favour of the man 36!