

## THE SLAVERY QUESTION IN KENT COUNTY.

—We print on our first page the proceedings of a meeting of pro-slavery citizens of Kent at Chestertown. It will demand the attention of our readers. Since the publication of these proceedings the Baltimore American had a letter from Mr. Bowers, of which it says:

His detail of the proceedings on the night in question does not materially differ from that which we copied from the Kent News. He however utterly denies any complicity with runaway slaves, and says:

"The cause of this outrage was said to be the alleged participation of Mr. Bowers in the intended escape of three negroes from Mr. Samuel Baker and his son, with which, however, Mr. Bowers was in no way concerned. One of these negroes has been in the habit of running away ever since he was brought to this county. It seems that their plan of escape being discovered, they were thrown into jail, and were induced by threats and a story implicating Mr. Bowers in a knowledge of their scheme; saying, that they went to him to get him to take them away, and he told them he could not do it, but somebody else would; all of which was utterly false and without foundation, as far as Mr. Bowers is concerned.

Implications thus extorted from slaves in prison, (who under no circumstances, are allowed in this State to give evidence against a white man,) are tortured into grave charges, which excite the imagination, and as the rumor spreads, are heightened by exaggeration, and are deemed sufficient cause for so great an outrage upon law abiding and unoffending citizens.

Mr. Bowers also reviews the speeches made by Judge Chambers, Senator Pearce and Hon. J. B. Ricard, at the meeting held at Chestertown on Friday last, charging them with making various accusations and misrepresentations that are altogether unfounded. He denies that he ever admitted to any one that he had assisted slaves to escape, or that he had ever said or thought that slaves were entitled to all the privileges enjoyed by the citizens of the county, and concludes by saying:—  
"It is in full conviction of my innocence that I protest against the dangerous ground of negro slave evidence, under promises and threats, being received. My opinions on the subject are such as are acknowledged by the Society of Friends and many slave owners."