

be committed. This object of course could not be secured unless they are of a nature to afford the superficial observer an occasion to stigmatise them as cruel, or at least as excessive. But your committee would have it borne in mind, that the most vexatious and galling laws are not unfrequently those which impose penalties for their infraction, that induce the criminal to hazard the chances of detection. If for example, the free negro who shall come into this State contrary to our laws, knows that if he is detected he will be made a slave for life; the strongest motive is presented why he should not brave the hazard which would arise from the offence, and the necessity for punishment would be beyond all comparison less frequent than if any fine were imposed, because its infliction the negro would be willing to risk or provide for, for the sake of accomplishing a favorite object.

All of which is submitted.

E. HAMMOND, Chairman.
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