

white men, neighbors and friends of the Jurors, were aiders and abettors in the murder of Edward Gorsuch?

This is, indeed, a precious sample of the Justice that our citizens may expect at the hands of a local Jury, drawn from the vicinage where such things are done.

I do not hesitate, therefore, in view of these appalling consequences to the State of Maryland, as a border slave State, to urge upon your Excellency, the vital importance of impressing upon our next Legislature, the necessity of some further action by the General Government, to arrest this legalised butchery of our innocent citizens, who are invited by that General Government, to cross State lines, in pursuit of their property.

It is in vain to say, that this whole question has been adjusted, on parchment, by Congress; the melancholy fact remains, that the Fugitive Slave Law is no shield to the life of the slave-owner, much less a security for his property.

The more especially, as it will be seen that the Fugitive Slave Act, while commanding the bystanders to assist in its execution, and authorizing the officers to summon the posse comitatus, *has omitted to inflict any penalty whatever on those who refuse to assist in executing the law.*

I will remind your Excellency that, some years ago, Mr. Kennedy, a valuable citizen of Maryland, was murdered at the Court House door in Carlisle, in open day, by a mob, because he was lawfully pursuing his fugitive slaves, and to this day, as I recollect the facts, no man has been punished for his participation in so daring and public a murder.

It remains to be seen whether the State of Maryland is powerless to protect her citizens, when the authorities of a sister State fail in their duty honestly to execute the obligations of the Federal Constitution, or mock us with the forms of a delusive trial, and when a Judge of the United States Supreme Court has solemnly decided that we can obtain no Justice in the Federal Courts, but must go before the local courts and local juries of the non-slaveholding States, for that redress which it would now be a mockery to ask for.

I must say in conclusion, that John L. Thompson, the District Attorney of Lancaster county, has demanded that all these prisoners should be tried there, for the murder of Mr. Gorsuch, and I have the utmost confidence that he will boldly, fearlessly, and patriotically discharge his whole duty. I also believe that a majority of the people of Lancaster county, are law-abiding and loyal citizens, but I shall be much astonished to hear that Justice is vindicated even there, against the efforts of sympathisers and fanatics. If Justice is triumphant at last, we will all agree that Pennsylvania has nobly redeemed herself, and we can once more regard her as a sister State.\*

\*Since filing this report, the Grand Jury of Lancaster county have ignored all the bills for the murder of Mr. Gorsuch.