

REPORT.

The select committee to whom was referred that portion of the Governor's Message, relating to the murder of Edward Gorsuch, and the trial before the U. S. Circuit Court for the Eastern district of Pennsylvania, of Castner Hanway, for the crime of High Treason against the United States, beg leave to report, that they have given to the subject committed to their charge, that calm, deliberate and unprejudiced consideration, to which its high importance and the momentous consequences involved in its ultimate decision so eminently entitle it.

The committee are deeply impressed with the great responsibility they may incur, from the *character* of the recommendations they may feel it their duty to submit to the Legislature for its action in the premises; involving as that action may, upon the one hand, an abandonment of the constitutional rights of the citizens of a sovereign State, or upon the other, the peace, harmony and *union* of the States composing our glorious confederacy. In view of these startling results, and with a full consciousness of the difficulty and delicacy of *any* legislation on the subject, which may not eventuate in a surrender of the *rights* of the State, or precipitate us into the terrible gulf of *Disunion*, the committee have endeavored after mature and anxious deliberation, so to frame their recommendations that, whilst the constitutional rights of the people of Maryland are asserted and maintained, the prosperity and perpetuity of the Union may not be disturbed.

Before proceeding to the consideration of the *particular case* to which the attention of your committee has been directed, it may be proper to review, briefly, the subject of slavery as it *has* existed and *still* exists in our country, in connection with the *rights* in relation to this species of property, which Maryland possesses under the national compact, in common with her sister States; together with the systematic aggressions upon those rights by citizens of the non-slaveholding States. In undertaking to review the vexed question of slavery, your committee are aware they are treading upon dangerous ground. They are aware they are re-opening discussion upon a question that has been a prolific source of agitation and discord between the various sections of our common country. A question, above al.