

This amendment itself extended its operation; for if the word *misdemeanor* had been retained, it would have applied only to cases less than felony, and punishable by indictment, so that a demand could not have been made in any case, unless the act complained of were the subject of indictment. Your committee believe that the words "or other crime" remove all doubt. "A crime is an act committed or omitted in violation of public law, either forbidding or commanding it. In its most general signification it comprehends all offences; but in its limited sense it is confined to felony. The term *misdemeanor*, includes every offence inferior to felony, but punishable by indictment. *Offence* is usually understood to mean a crime not indictable, but punishable summarily, or by a penalty." See Bouviers Law Dic.—Vol. 1.—272.

Your committee are of opinion that the employment of the words "or other crime," in preference to "misdemeanor," indicates the intention of the convention, that the principle in question should "extend to every violation of the public law" of a State, which that State might deem of sufficient importance to authorise a demand, if the offender escaped to another State; the offended State being the judge of its own laws, and of the necessity and manner of enforcing them. Another State, in the relation of New York to Virginia, should not examine whether the accusation be true or false; it should presume on the justice of its neighbor, and not suffer any doubts on its part to impair an institution so well calculated to preserve harmony and good understanding between the States. Indeed the inquiry would be contrary to the law of nations, on which the Executive of New York relies.

These are the views entertained by your committee of the obligations imposed by the constitution. But if the constitution be only a recognition of the law of nations, and was designed only to secure the application of its principles to the States of the Union, your committee still are of opinion that the surrender should be made. By the authority quoted, it will appear that the rule in question admits of a qualified application, not noticed by the Executive of New York; and we might confidently submit the case on that authority, as fully sustaining the claim of Virginia. When we consider the character of this Union, and the intimate connection between the States, the deep concern they all have in the observance of law, and regard for the rights of property in each other; and finally in view of the eminent importance that was attached to the institu-