

tion of slavery at the foundation of the Government, as shewn by the extract recited; the constant recognition, in the States, of our right of property in that population, and the tender solicitude ever exhibited upon this subject, your committee venture to suggest the assumption that New York and Virginia are "States so closely connected by friendship and good neighborhood, as to authorise and require this matter to be carried further" than the limits assigned to nations more widely separated by distance—more foreign in interest and sympathy—and to claim the application of the above qualification to the present controversy, as presenting a case of at least "ordinary transgression, the subject of civil prosecution, either with a view to the recovery of damages, or the infliction of punishment."

Your committee deem it inexpedient to recommend any course of action to the State of Virginia; more especially as she does not indicate the character of the measures contemplated by herself. It is presumed, however, that all the States will countenance any necessary and proper measure of redress which she may be forced to adopt. It is confidently hoped that an amicable adjustment of this difference may be effected by expressions of opinion by the other States. New York and Virginia must be too sensible of the value of the union, to risk any thing on which its permanence may depend. A regard for their own interests, as well as a becoming respect for the judgment of their sister States, will induce them to reason the matter dispassionately, so as to arrive, in a friendly way, at an honorable and just conclusion of a controversy which the people take no pleasure in witnessing.

The committee respectfully recommend the adoption of the following resolutions, as expressive of the opinions of the Legislature of Maryland on this subject:

*Resolved unanimously by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That it is the exclusive right of each State in this Union to define, for itself, what is felony or crime, within the meaning of the constitution of the United States, and to determine the manner of furnishing violations of its own laws; and that when a person, who is charged in any State with the commission of an act, which, by the laws of that State, is felonious or criminal, absconds from justice, and flies to another State, it is the duty of the authorities of that State to surrender him for trial, on the demand of the State where the offence was committed.

*Resolved unanimously,* That, if a negro slave be stolen