

MEMORIAL.

*To the Honorable, the General Assembly
of the State of Maryland.*

The undersigned petitioners feel constrained to memorialize your Honorable Body in a respectful, and at the same time urgent, petition for the interposition of such legislation as will meet the grievances herein set forth.

We are moved by no ordinary cause, and trust our prayer will not return void—convinced as we are that the common good of the whole State is involved, while to us, and doubtless to thousands of others similarly situated, the only alternate left in the absence of legislation, will be removal from the State with our property as the last means of security. We cannot think the only lawful and constitutional exponent of the sovereign will of Maryland will subject us to that necessity, identified as we are in all things pertaining to her glory and renown, as well as her adversities and trials.

With this confidence we express our wants plainly, and trust to your patriotic action in our behalf.

Your intelligent body need not be reminded that Maryland as a frontier Southern State, holds a position in this Union of the first importance. The good neighborhood intercourse of the respective members of that Union, which existed in the earlier history of our Government, is fast passing away; and a systematic plan of unremitting plunder upon our slave property by the Abolitionists of the North, admonishes us how impotent the Federal Government is to restrain them or to protect that property.

True, we do not complain of the Federal Government as derelict in the rendition of Fugitive Slaves when captured and placed under its control; but the difficulty in arriving at that point by the party claiming—his pecuniary losses, vexatious suits, and exposure to death by mobs opposed to the law in the Northern States, all go to make the law a nullity.

In this emergency we fall back upon the reserved rights of the State, and look to home, to our own State, in the exercise of her sovereign power, for protection.

Ours is a government within a government; and as citizens of a sovereign State, we can look to no other source for protection against the adversaries of our laws, properties and rights, because all things necessary for our municipal government and well being are vested in your Honorable Body.

Some of our sister Southern States have been driven by the encroachments of Abolitionists, to pass laws for protection and retaliation. We do not ask for retaliation as yet; but