

or preference claim upon the estate of deceased persons, in prejudice of other creditors, but that the said sheriffs and collectors, in such cases, shall only be entitled to a proportion of assets, if the assets are insufficient to pay all the creditors of the deceased.

The bill was then read the second and by special order the third time, passed and returned to the house of delegates.

Mr. Goldsborough from the committee on colored population, to which was referred the bill entitled, an act to authorise William Penn, to bring into this State a negro slave for life, reported favorably thereon.

It was read the second and by special order the third time, passed and returned to the house of delegates.

Mr. Goldsborough from the committee on colored population, to which was referred the petition of James M. Selden, reported a bill entitled, an act to authorise James M. Selden of Baltimore county, to bring into this State the several slaves therein named,

Which was read the first and by special order the second time, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

It was accordingly engrossed, and

On motion of Mr. Goldsborough,

Read the third time by special order, passed and sent to the house of delegates.

On motion of Mr. Brown,

The resolutions declaratory of the rights of the citizens of Maryland over their fugitive slaves, were read the third time and assented to.

Mr. Brown submitted the following message; which was read and adopted:

By the Senate,

March 1, 1838.

Gentlemen of the House of Delegates,

The Senate, have passed (and herewith submit to your consideration,) a series of resolutions reported by the committee of conferences as declatory of the rights of the citizens of Maryland, over their fugitive slaves, and the basis of the measures which may be adopted to maintain them. If these Resolutions should be concurred in by your Honorable body, the Senate propose, with the consent of your Honorable body, instead of the joint deputation (consisting of two Gentlemen of the House and one of the Senate,) as proposed by your Honorable body and recommended by the committee, that a commissioner be appointed by his Excellency the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, to repair to Harrisburg, to procure the dismissal of the prosecution against Nathan S. Bemis and others, or make such arrangements, as may be necessary to refer the questions involved to the Supreme Court of the United States, without compromising the liberty of the accused, before a decision is had therein, and obtain