

*Case of Bemis and others.*—One of the most important and deeply interesting cases which has ever come before the Legislature, or the people, of the State of Maryland, is at this time agitating the minds of those entrusted with the administration of our State Government, as well as of those entrusted with the Government of Pennsylvania. We refer to the case of Bemis and others. The circumstances are these: A citizen of Maryland, who has lost his property, goes into the State of Pennsylvania in search of it. He finds it there, and influenced by what he considers his undoubted rights, seizes it. He is thwarted, and then offers to submit the decision of the question to a judicial tribunal in that State, generally admitted to have jurisdiction in such cases; this is refused. He then, regardless of the laws of Pennsylvania, takes upon himself the responsibility of carrying his property home to Maryland. A judicial investigation takes place, and the laws of Maryland pronounce the property his. On the other hand, an Act of Assembly of Pennsylvania declares Bemis and others, guilty of the offence of kidnapping. Accordingly, the Executive of Pennsylvania, pursuant to the Act of Congress, makes a demand upon the Executive of Maryland, for the delivery over to the violated laws of Pennsylvania, of the persons of Nathan S. Bemis, Jacob Forward, Stephen Lewis, and Edward Prigg, citizens of Harford county, fugitives from justice, charged with having seized and carried away certain negroes, claimed as slaves, without having conformed to the laws of Pennsylvania. The questions are, are Bemis and the others fugitives from justice, and are they to be given up? It is not necessary for us to say one word as to the numerous and important questions which will arise in the course of this controversy. For the present, we forbear all comment, an attempt being about to be made to settle the difficulty by some sort of negotiation with Pennsylvania.