

We have not ascertained that any law is in existence, at present, relative to this subject, except the acts of March 1st, 1780, entitled, An act for the gradual abolition of slavery; and of March 27th, 1820, entitled, An act to prevent kidnapping; which last mentioned act prohibits the justices and aldermen within this commonwealth, from enforcing the act of congress passed the 12th day of February 1793, entitled, An act respecting fugitives from justice, and persons escaping from the service of their masters, and prescribes the duty of a judge or recorder of any court of record of this commonwealth, granting certificates or warrants of removal of negroes or mulattoes, to the state or territory from which they fled, when claimed in pursuance of the said act of congress to be fugitives from labour. We also find a provision in the 8th section of the 9th article of the constitution of this state, that no warrant to search any place, or seize any person or things, shall issue, without describing them as nearly as may be, nor without probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation. The general abhorrence of slavery which prevails in this state, and the enthusiastic zeal which pervades the mind of certain classes of our citizens, have a strong tendency, without doubt, to divert the officer from the line of his duty, and to embarrass and to perplex the master in the recovery of his slave. It may be necessary to establish some stronger measures relative to this business; what these measures should be, we have not yet considered, and would be pleased with a communication expressive of your ideas thereon. And while we assure you, that this subject shall receive our serious attention, and that it will give us much pleasure if, through our efforts, such alteration can be effected in the existing laws, as will tend to remove all further inconveniences, so far as the same may be consistent with the constitution of this state, and with the rights and liberties of our citizens. We also request that you will be pleased to accept the assurance of our highest respect.

Daniel Groves, Robert Smith, Ja. Lyster, James B. Hubley, Alex. Mahon.

R. Johnson, Wm. C. Miller, Archibald Lee, Littleton J. Dennis, and John Chauncey Esq's.  
Annapolis, Md.

On motion by Mr. Archibald Lee, the following resolution was read, assented to, and sent to the senate:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, Feb. 24, 1823.

Resolved, That Reverdy Johnson, esq. be requested to continue the correspondence now pending with the legislature of Pennsylvania, on the subject of runaway slaves, and to report the result thereof to the next general assembly,

The clerk of the senate delivers the resolutions in favour of Mary Richards and Clement Sewell, endorsed 'assented to.' And the resolutions in favour of Charles Robertson, and James Leonard, endorsed "dissented from." And the engrossed bills No. 207 to 213, endorsed "read and assented to."

The additional supplement to an act, entitled, 'An act to provide for the organization and regulation of the courts of common law in this state, and for the administration of justice therein,' was read the second time.

Mr. Purviance moved to insert "the judges of the sixth judicial district."

Mr. Massey moved to refer the same to the next general assembly? Determined in the negative.

Mr. Purviance's motion was rejected.

Questions were put on filling up the blank for the increase of salary with \$1000, \$500, with \$400 and with \$350, and determined in the negative.

The bill was then referred to the next general assembly.

On motion by Mr. Thomas Kennedy, the following resolution was read:

Resolved, That the state of Maryland is hereby pledged to co-operate with the commonwealth of Virginia, in improving the navigation of the Potomac river, and if at the present session of the legislature of Virginia a bill has passed, or shall pass, incorporating a Potomac Canal Company, the governor and council are hereby requested to cause the same to be published, for the information of the people, in three of the newspapers printed in Baltimore, and also in the newspapers printed at Frederick, Hagers Town and Easton.

On motion by Mr. A. Lee, the following message was read, and sent to the senate.

BY THE HOUSE DELEGATES, February 24, 1823.

Gentlemen of the Senate—We request you to reconsider the resolution in favour of Richard Kisby, a wounded revolutionary soldier.

Mr. Estep delivers the journal of accounts, and a bill, entitled, An act for the payment of the journal of accounts, which were read, passed, and sent to the senate.

The clerk of the senate delivers the bill to prevent unnecessary accumulation of costs on suits instituted on any bond or note, endorsed "will not pass."

On motion by Mr. Millard, ordered, that when this house adjourn, it stand adjourned until the first Monday in October next.

The clerk of the senate delivers the resolutions in favour of Captain James Cochran, of Cecil county, and James White of Montgomery county, endorsed "assented to." And the resolution in favour of James M'Collister, endorsed "dissented from."

Also the resolution relative to the correspondence with the legislature of Pennsylvania.

On motion by Mr. Estep, the following resolution was read, assented to, and sent to the senate:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, Feb. 24, 1823.

Resolved, That the treasurer of the western shore, pay to each member of the legislature, with the clerks and other officers, such per diem as they may be entitled to, since the closing of the journal of accounts up to the 25th of February inclusive, and that the committee of claims furnish the said treasurer with a list of members, clerks and other officers, so entitled.

On motion by Mr. J. P. Kennedy, the following message was read, assented to, and sent to the senate: