

the measures best calculated to prevent the absconding of slaves from this state, and of securing their recovery," being informed by the gentlemen constituting the committee, that they would set out without delay upon their mission; we addressed a letter to the governor of each of the said states, a copy whereof is herewith submitted, together with the report of the committee, which has just been received.

By this report and the accompanying documents, we have the gratification to find, that with the legislatures of Delaware and Pennsylvania, the committee succeeded in obtaining the passage of laws well calculated to effect the very important objects of their mission.

The legislature of New Jersey not being in session until lately, no opportunity was offered of making to it, a personal explanation of the purposes of their mission, or of the enactments believed necessary to accomplish them. But they addressed a written communication to his excellency the governor of that state, (a copy whereof is among the documents accompanying their report,) fully disclosing in a lucid and forcible manner, their views of the whole subject, with a request that it be submitted to the legislature; and we entertain the fullest confidence, that that enlightened body will be found animated by the same just and liberal spirit which guided their sister states, and that during its present session, a law will be passed equally satisfactory with those of Delaware and Pennsylvania.

We scarcely know which most to commend, the ability with which the committee supported their application, or the enlightened and liberal spirit in which they were received, and the sense of justice and good feelings that enabled them so fully to succeed in securing the objects of their mission.

By virtue of the resolution No. 22 we selected and employed the Hon. William Wirt, attorney general of the United States, and Roger B. Taney, esquire, to appear to the suits which had been instituted, and were pending in the supreme court of the United States, against citizens of this state, for arrearages of quit rents claimed by the administration of Louisa Browning, as heir at law of a former proprietary, whilst Maryland was a British province. And we have the pleasure to inform you, that the suit against the venerable Charles Carroll of Carrollton, now the only surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence, (by the establishment of which in our opinion, the claim was forever barred and cut off,) was brought to an issue in March last, and the judgment of the supreme court finally pronounced against the claimant, upon principles that apply to, and protect every other landholder in Maryland. The pretended claim of the representatives of Mrs. Browning, may therefore, be considered as at rest, and the landholders of the state freed from any farther vexation thereby.

The high importance of the principles involved in the claim, as well as its great amount, induced us to select two of the most eminent members of the legal profession to resist it; and we were gratified to learn that they fully sustained, on that occasion, their exalted reputations.

By authority of resolution, No. 27, Roger B. Taney and Reverdy Johnson, esquires, have been selected and employed by us, as counsel on the part of the state, to aid in the prosecution of the suit pending in the supreme court of the United States, against Alexander Brown, and others, for a violation of the act of assembly, entitled, "A supplement to the act laying duties on licenses to retailers of dry goods, and for other purposes," passed at December session, 1821; this suit has not yet been brought to trial.

By virtue of the resolutions, No. 29 and 73, we contracted with William D. Beall, George Brown, Isaac Hines, Henry Hobbs, and Joseph Mayo, esquires, for the recording, under the superintendence of Thomas Culbreth, esq. clerk of the council, "of the papers remaining unrecorded in the chancery office, and which should have been placed on record by Samuel H. Howard, Nicholas Brewer, Jas. P. Heath, and Thomas H. Bowie, esquires, late registers in chancery." The work is now rapidly