

Messrs be deemed a felony, and the third section makes it the duty of the Governor, upon the presentation to him of proof of the fact, by affidavit or indictment, to demand such slave as a fugitive from justice, from the proper authorities of this State, into which the slave may have escaped, or on the ninth of February last, I issued a requisition upon the Governor of Pennsylvania, for the delivery to the Agent of this State of negroes Charles and Ellick Gray, and on the 27th of March of the same year, a requisition for the delivery of Samuel Lockwood, charged with the offence of escaping from their Masters, into the State of Pennsylvania. The first requisition was based upon affidavits, and the second upon an indictment in Washington County Court, charging the felony specified in the Act of 1836, to which I have referred. The Governor of Pennsylvania refused in both cases to gratify my demand, and accompanied his refusal in the latter case, with the opinion of the Attorney General of that State, declaring that the Act of the General Assembly of this State of 1838, was deemed unconstitutional by the Authorities of Pennsylvania.

After this decision, the Citizens of Maryland consequently rely, in regard to Pennsylvania, upon the recede afforded by the Act of Congress of 1793, Chapter 15 & shortly after this decision was known, several slaves belonging to citizens of Washington County, having made their escape into Pennsylvania, their owners determined to take the course prescribed by this Act of Congress. They accordingly went to Pennsylvania, and having procured their property, and obtained from the proper authorities of that State, the required certificate, they arrested their slaves, and were bringing them to this State, when they were resisted by an overwhelming number of the citizens of that Commonwealth, who proceeded to take from them a portion of their slaves by violence, which resulted in the death of Mr. Menard, an estimable and valuable citizen of this State. I will bring to your notice another case before I offer any comments upon the subject. On the 26th of April last, I demanded of the Governor of Pennsylvania, as a fugitive from justice, Isaac Brown, the slave of Mr. Alexander Somerville of Calvert County, who had been indicted for an attempt to assassinate his Master. The Governor in this case issued his warrant for the arrest and delivery of the criminal to the Agent of this State. He was arrested in Philadelphia, and after a protracted trial before one of the Tribunals of that City, involving the legality of the Governor's warrant, the Court directed his delivery to the officer of this State, and to avoid the threatened violence of the populace, the Court placed the criminal in the custody of the