

page Sheriff until the agent of Maryland could with safety take charge of him or immediately after the case was supposed to have been thus terminated, a writ of habeas Corpus was issued by some other tribunal than that before which the case had been tried, and the criminal was rescued by the populace, and placed beyond the reach of the officer of this State. You have therefore, in the two first cases the decision of the Executive of Pennsylvania, that fugitive slaves made felons by our act of 1838, cannot be deemed as fugitives from justice. You have in the third case evidence of the successful determinations of the citizens of that State, that fugitive slaves shall not be given up, when that object is sought to be attained in the manner prescribed by the Act of Congress. And you have in the last case, the fact that a slave indicted for an attempt to murder his Master cannot be delivered up for trial by the authorities of that State, when demanded in strict accordance with the Constitution of the United States, and the Act of Congress passed to make effective this declaration of that instrument.

The institution of slavery existed in Maryland long before the revolution, by the act of British subjects, and by the authority, and sanction of the government Great Britain, and thus introduced and existing, the rights of property of the citizens of each State, over their slaves was as fully recognized, and intended to be as fully protected by the Constitution of the United States, as the rights of property of the citizens over any other subject.

The 2^d section of the 4th article of the Constitution of the United States was designed to perform the double office of recognizing the title, and protecting the rights of the Master. It was subsequently found that some legislation by Congress was requisite, to prescribe the manner in which the rights of the citizens of each State intended to be secured by that article of the Constitution, should be enforced within the jurisdiction of the other States, and the Act of Congress referred to, of 1793, Chapter 152, was passed for that object.

The protection thus afforded was adequate for many years, and until the spirit of abolition became an active political element in some of the non-slave holding States, the plain requisition of the Constitution and law of the United States upon this subject was compliance to by the authorities and citizens of all the States. But since the introduction of this fanatical spirit, the harmony which had existed between all the States of this Union has been frequently interrupted, and now the constitutional right of the citizen of a slave State to demand and receive his slaves when they escape to a non-slave holding State, is not disregarded by the authorities.