

In Council Annapolis January 15 1801

Sir,

The losses and inconvenience sustained by a number of the Citizens of Maryland by reason of their Slaves absconding from their service and secreting themselves in the neighbouring States, was deemed a subject of so great magnitude as to require the interposition of the Legislature in their Session of seven hundred and ninety eight when a Resolution passed that Body which we had the honour immediately to communicate, and a copy of which we now enclose. Since the above mentioned period the evil hath increased to an alarming extent, and unless some speedy and effectual remedy be devised, seems at this time to threaten the destruction of the agricultural interest of a considerable portion of the State. Impressed with the propriety of affording every aid to the protection of our Citizens in the enjoyment of their Slave property and at the earnest solicitation of many respectable Inhabitants of Kent County, some of whom accompany this communication we are induced to request your attention to this interesting subject. Presuming not to dictate what measures you are to adopt, we deem it proper only to observe, that the Law of forgery passed in the Session of 1793 appears inadequate to the use for which it was intended to afford, and from a full persuasion that a knowledge of the existing facts will be alone sufficient to secure that co-operative aid and assistance, which from our political union, we owe to each other, we give this simple statement and refer more particularly to the enclosed official copies of a Memorial lately presented to us by many Gentlemen of Kent County, whose characters deservedly ought to add much weight to their representation, and also of a letter from Mr. Hew, one of the sufferers, and a Judge of that County Court the Governors of Delaware
Pennsylvania & New Jersey we have &c.

Ben. Ogden