

expressing the reasons for their dissenting to those amendments: all which are respectfully submitted to your consideration. We have received advice from no other State upon this subject.

In consequence of the earnest representation of many respectable inhabitants of some of the Counties on the Eastern Shore respecting their runaway Negroes, who, they stated, were in the constant habit of fleeing from their Masters Service and too readily found refuge and protection in the neighbouring States, we deemed it expedient to submit the grievance complained of to the Executives of New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania, with a request that they would call their attention to sundry Resolutions of the State of Maryland on this head passed at the Session of 1798 and which had at that period been transmitted to them. The State of New Jersey alone hath replied to our remonstrance, and in answer thereto, hath forwarded to us a copy of sundry Resolutions and Extracts of laws which they conceive adequate to answer every purpose intended by our communication.

We have caused the laws compiled by William Hittig Esquire, to be distributed as far as they would extend and in the manner directed by the Legislature; but as they appear to have contemplated the diffusion of the knowledge of our Statute laws as widely as possible, we regret that the number of Copies were not sufficient to answer this laudable and patriotic purpose, for the Associate Justices of the County Courts have necessarily been excluded in the distribution.

The Resolution which relates to the Survey of Newfoundt Manor in Cecil County, for George Gale Esquire, hath been complied with. We flatter ourselves that Mr. John Shaw to whose superintendance we committed the Repairing and painting of the Roof of the State House, has executed the trust reposed in him with his usual fidelity.

Your Honours will perceive by a letter from Benjamin Rumsey and Benjamin Mackall Esquires, under date of the 25 of August last, that in consequence of the extreme ill health of Thomas Jones Esquire, one of the Judges of the Court of Appeals, the Business of that Court had been unavoidably delayed, and that a total stagnation of Business was apprehended, as there was not a quorum to do business. Under the pressure of this situation Messrs Rumsey