

Sir,

Criminal Chamber
Singapore May 9th 1831.

I was about, today, commencing writing to the Governors of the different States, and in compliance with your directions, proposing reciprocally, to furnish to them, and be furnished by them, such Laws as may be necessary for us to complete a set of those of the other States, and for them, each, respectively, to complete a set of our Laws. After preparing a letter intended for a circular to each Governor, I took the communication from the Secretary of the State of Delaware to the State Governor which he had communicated to the Legislature, in order to give a specific answer to that letter. I found it to state that a revised Edition of the Laws of Delaware, up to and including 1829, and also the act of 1830, had been sent with it, and, upon enquiry at the Library, that they had been received.

A Memorandum upon the Secretary's letter states that they wanted all the Laws of Delaware previous to 1811, and more of several subsequent years, and, upon enquiry of Mr. Ridgely, he tells me that the Edition of the Laws previous to the Edition of Kelly, Harris & Matthews, which commenced in 1799, to spare in that of the Edition by Kelly up to 1799, there are but nine copies in the Library, which is not a number as has been found to be wanting during the Session of the Legislature. Under these circumstances, I have declined writing to any of the Governors until I hear from you again. What is to be done in this business? - I never will do to ask for what we want, without making a reciprocal offer.

The Resolution of the Legislature requests you in broad and general terms to procure such of the Laws, as we want, to answer the purpose in view, which I presume, is sufficient authority for you to purchase them. But it does not say a word as to your furnishing our Laws to other States; and, it seems to me, cannot be construed so as to authorize you to purchase, for that purpose, and we can furnish the Laws previous to 1799, by no other means. It is quite likely that there are several other States, perhaps the most of them that will want as much as Delaware, to complete their respective sets. Please let me hear from you on this subject, after you shall have taken time to think of it.

I enclose you a petition from a Col. Proctor, just received. The practice of slaves coming to market here is so general, that if the Laws forbidding dealing with them, without written permission, was rigidly enforced, few persons would escape its operation.

I remain truly yours

H. C. Culbreth

His Excellency
James Martin
Crupper
Talbot-County.