

to open her Treasury, for the general discharge of all costs, fines and losses incurred, in such matters, beyond her jurisdiction, in private transactions between Slave holders & their Agents. Such appeals must be answered by the Slave holders themselves, in whose behalf the risks were incurred by the unfortunate Agents. To proclaim to the World that she will hold herself responsible for the mishaps of all Agents employed in the business of recapturing runaway slaves, out of her public Treasury would be to proclaim her certain insolvency: for, half her tax list would not suffice to sustain such a policy. There is no analogy whatever between the case which you submit to my consideration, and that of Alberti & Price, upon which the State Convention of Maryland recently acted. The former is one of a character with an hundred others of daily occurrence. The latter is one, where the decisions of the Courts of Pennsylvania, touching the question of the freedom of the issue of a Fugitive Slave, born in that State, during the absconding of the mother, directly conflict with the laws of Maryland and the Constitution of the United States. And, I have no doubt, therefore, that the Convention requested me to take measures to have the case brought before the Supreme Court of the United States, for the especial purpose (though not so expressed in the report of the Committee,) of having the Pennsylvania law tested by a higher authority. When ever a case arises, involving a great general principle, in the proper adjustment or maintenance of which, the people of the State are deeply interested, the policy of the Government might be to throw itself into the contest, even at considerable expense. But, without such a justifying cause, neither the Executive nor Legislative Department of this State would feel warranted in interfering at all with the local affairs of another State; nor could the Treasury of the State be invaded for any such purpose.

I must therefore respectfully decline to act in the matter, upon which you have been pleased to consult me.

I am very Respectfully, Your obt. Servt.

E. Louis Lowe.

(May 29th 1857)

From
W. W. Bowie
asking
for
Smith
with

To Gov. E. L. Lowe,
Dear Sir,

Herewith enclosed you will find a presentment and Indictment by the Grand Jury of this County against one William Smith now of Washington City, in the District of Columbia -

The proof in the case in my opinion clearly warrants what we desire to have, which is a requisition by your Excellency upon the