

the proper authorities of Washington City for the delivery up of the said Smith - and if in conformity with usage I would be pleased if you sent me the requisition that it might be attended to by persons living in the City of Washington and who know where the offender lives.

At your earliest convenience I sh^d be glad to receive a communication directed to Upper Marlboro'. Anxiously awaiting your reply I am your Excellency's Ob^t. Serv^t. and sincere friend

W. W. W. Bowie

Depty. Atty Gen^l. M^d. for
Prince George's County

Note - The above letter enclosed a Copy of Indictment found at the April Term 1851 of Prince George's County Court, against the said William Smith charging him with enticing and assisting to runaway a certain Negress named Mary Ann, the property of one George W. Graham, of the said County.

The said Smith is described in said Indictment as "late of the City of Washington in the District of Columbia". (See Copy on file)

State Department, Annapolis, May 30th 1851

W. W. W. Bowie Esq

Depty. Atty. Gen^l.

My dear Sir,

Your letter of yesterday's date has been duly received and considered. Sometime early in my administration, the Gov^l. Mr Graham called on me, and asked for a requisition, on the Judge having jurisdiction in such cases in the District of Columbia, for a certain free Negro man residing there, who by letters and supplies of money had induced in reply and aided several of his slaves to runaway from Prince George's County. He stated to me that the culprit had not been personally present, former engaged in the transaction, within the limits of the State. I told Mr Graham that I had not the power to demand an offender, as a fugitive from justice, who had not perpetrated the crime within our borders. Subsequently, upon this very principle, I refused to deliver up Mitchell, of Cecil County, upon the requisition of the Governor of Pennsylvania. (Mitchell was indicted in Philadelphia, upon a charge of kidnaping, when, in fact, he had never been in the State, in connection with the removal of the Parties charged to have been unlawfully abducted; but had procured their asportation from Pennsylvania, and delivery to him in Elkton, by agents. Now, my dear Sir, I cannot violate a great principle of public law, contended for by myself, in my intercourse with the Authorities of other States. It may be said perhaps, that the Grand Jury of Prince George's County, having found a bill in this case, I ought not to look behind it; neither would I, if I were not already apprized of the fact. Moreover

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