

adjusted on parchment by Congress, the melancholy fact remains, that the Fugitive Slave Law is no shield to the life of the slave owner, much less a security for his property.

The more especially, as it will be seen, that the Fugitive Slave Act, while commanding the bystanders to assist in its execution, & authorizing the officers the posse comitatus, has omitted to inflict any penalty whatever on those who refuse to assist in executing the law.

I will remind your Excellency that some years ago Mr New redy, a valuable citizen of Maryland, was murdered at the Cabot House door, in Carlisle, in open day, by a mob, because he was lawfully pursuing his fugitive slaves & to this day as I recollect the facts no man has been punished for his participation in so daring & public a murder. It remains to be seen whether the State of Maryland is powerless to protect her citizens, when the authorities of a sister State fail in their duty honestly to execute the obligations of the Federal Constitution, or mock us with the forms of a delusive trial; & when a Judge of the ^{United States} Supreme Court ~~of the United States~~ has solemnly decided that we can obtain no justice in the Federal Courts, but must go before the local courts & local Juries of the non slave holding States, for that redress which it would now be a mockery to ask for.

I must say in conclusion, that John L. Thompson, the District Attorney of Lancaster County, has demanded that all these prisoners should be tried there for the murder of Mr Branch, & I have the utmost confidence that he will boldly, fearlessly & patriotically discharge his whole duty.

I also believe that a majority of the people of Lancaster County are law abiding & loyal citizens, but I shall be much astonished to hear that Justice is vindicated, even there against the efforts of sympathizers & fanatics. If Justice is triumphant at last, we will all agree that Pennsylvania ^{had} nobly redeemed herself & we can once more regard her as a sister State. In the meantime, I beg leave respectfully to recommend that Maryland should take no further part in prosecuting these or any other criminals, before the State Courts of Pennsylvania.

I have this submitted, as part of my official report, my own views & opinions arising out of the facts of this case, because my duty required a full report, & I could not discharge this duty without expressing my own views upon the law, as ruled by the Court.

I have done so conscientiously and after mature -