

General Assembly of Maryland, of the 7th of March 1838, having been referred, in each branch of the Legislature, to the Committee on the Judiciary System, I addressed the note (No. 12.) to the Chairman; and having received an immediate reply (No. 13.) from the Senate Committee, I accepted the invitation to a conference, in which I endeavoured to maintain the positions assumed in the Maryland resolutions.

From the Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, of the House of Representatives, who was absent at the date of my note of the 16th of February, (No. 12.) I received no answer until the 7th of March, on which day, at his request, (No. 14.) I met that Committee also, and had several subsequent interviews with him and the Chairman of the Senate Committee.

It is perhaps proper that I should reserve for a future communication a more particular report of the progress of this negotiation, which, after much discussion, resulted in an offer to accept the proposition of Maryland, and to submit the questions in controversy to the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, without compromising in the meanwhile the liberty of the parties implicated. For this purpose a Bill was reported by each Committee, copies of which, numbered 15 and 16, I have the honor also to transmit. The only substantial difference between them being, as you will observe, that in the one reported to the House of Representatives, the judgment of the Court of Quarter Sessions for York County, if in favor of the defendants, is to be final and conclusive,—while by the Senate Bill, Pennsylvania reserves a right of appeal, in that event, to the Supreme Court of the State.

The arrangement which both Bills are intended to effectuate, was, as I understood, unanimously approved of by the two Committees; and no apprehension of objection or difficulty in either legislative branch appeared to be entertained.

The Legislature has adjourned until the 7th of May, and I have received the most positive assurances that its earliest attention will be directed to this subject. As the interval however affords an opportunity of submitting these details of the proposed arrangement to the Government of Maryland, I have thought it proper to make the present communication, so that I may govern myself by such further instructions as may be considered necessary.

I have the honor to be, with great respect,

Your most obedient servant,

J. MEREDITH