

**J. Meredith, Esq.**, commissioner appointed by the Governor of the State of Maryland, under a resolution of the Legislature of that State, with power to proceed to Harrisburg, and endeavour to procure the dismissal of certain prosecutions pending in the Court of Oyer and Terminer of York county, against Nathan S. Bemis and other citizens of Maryland, for an alleged violation of the Laws of this State, relative to fugitives from labour; or to make such arrangements as may be found necessary to refer the constitutional question said to be involved in these prosecutions to the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States.

These proceedings of our sister State, marked by deep interest in the subject to which they relate, present a grave question for the consideration of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, which will, I am satisfied, be discussed and decided in that friendly spirit, and regard to justice, which has hitherto distinguished the intercourse between the States.

I would respectfully ask the immediate attention of the Legislature to this subject, as the commissioner of the State of Maryland is now in attendance at the seat of Government.

**DAVID R. PORTER.**

*Harrisburg, Feb. 16, 1839.*

No. 12.

Sir:—I understand that the communication which I had the honor to make to His Excellency the Governor of Pennsylvania on the 12th inst. transmitting a copy of the Resolutions of the Legislature of Maryland, declaratory of the rights of the citizens of that State over their fugitive slaves, was this morning sent by message to the Senate (House of Representatives) and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary system, of which you are the Chairman. I beg leave therefore to say, that it will give me great pleasure, to put into possession of the Committee the facts I have collected, in relation to the case of Bemis and others; and to make such further explanation of the views of the State of Maryland, and the objects she desires to have accomplished, as the committee shall deem necessary.

I have the honor to be,

with great respect,

your most obed't. servant,

**J. MEREDITH.**

*Harrisburg, February 16, 1838.*

A copy of the above was sent to Hon. I. J. Pearson, Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary system in the Senate of