

in New York, who were duly charged by affidavit regularly made before Miles King, Mayor and Justice of the Peace for Norfolk, with having feloniously stolen and taken from John G. Colley, a certain negro slave Isaac, the property of said Colley. The Governor of New York, refused to comply with the demand, and assigned as his reasons for the refusal, that the right to demand and the reciprocal obligations to surrender fugitives from Justice, between sovereign and independent nations, as defined by the law of nations, include only those cases in which the acts constituting the offence charged, are recognized by the universal law of all civilized countries; that the object of the provisions in the constitution of the United States relative to the demand of fugitives from justice was to recognise and establish this principle in the mutual relations of the States as independent, equal and sovereign communities, that the provisions apply only to those acts which if committed within the jurisdiction of the State in which the person accused is found, would be treasonable, felonious, or criminal by the laws of that State; that no law of New York, at this time recognised, no statute admitted, that one man could be the property of another, or that one man could be stolen from another; and that consequently the laws of Virginia making the stealing of a slave felony, did not constitute a crime within the meaning of the constitution."

Your committee have bestowed much reflection on this subject, with the anxious desire to arrive at a proper construction of the law that must regulate intercourse among the States of the Union in all cases of demand like the present. The subject is of the greatest importance at the present time, and especially to the State of Maryland. Her geographical position adds interest to ordinary questions affecting the relations of master and slave; but when in a great controversy, like the present, she finds a State where this institution does not exist, denying the right of property in slaves, and refusing to surrender for punishment those who have outraged that right, we should not hesitate to make common cause with the southern members of the union in vindicating our claims, and resisting such attacks upon our domestic policy. We would not voluntarily interfere in disputes between our sister States but being called upon by the State of Virginia to add our opinion to the weight of hers, in a friendly and respectful remonstrance against what we believe to be a violation of her privileges