

CORRESPONDENCE.

MARTINSBURG, BERKELEY COUNTY, Va
December 20th, 1849.

To His Excellency,

Governor Thomas, of Maryland:

SIR:—I have the honor herewith of enclosing to you, two affidavits taken under my direction to-day, touching a matter that cannot fail, I think, to arrest your attention, as the Executive organ of the State of Maryland.

It is proper for me to explain to you, how it has occurred, that I a citizen of Virginia, should be the medium of inviting your attention to this case. About ten days ago, a letter from Jonathan Little, addressed to his wife at Clearspring, Washington county, Maryland, detailing the atrocious circumstances of his imprisonment in the Jail of Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, was placed in my hands by her friends, citizens of your State, and I was consulted as to the proper course to be pursued for his relief. I was informed that Little had been arrested in October 1849, upon the false charge of *Kidnapping*, and thrown into jail, when in fact and in truth, he was lawfully recapturing a fugitive slave from the State of Maryland; that since his arrest, he has been confined to a narrow cell, hand-cuffed and heavily ironed, subjected to great indignities, and treated in all respects with the severity of one of the vilest of felons and malefactors. That when the witnesses volunteered, at great inconvenience and cost to themselves, to attend his trial at the November Court last, to establish his innocence under the law, by proof of the facts, the trial was postponed upon the most miserable shifts and evasive prettexts; that Little is poor and unable to employ counsel; that in the section of Pennsylvania where he is incarcerated, it is extremely difficult to obtain the services of counsel in such cases, and then only upon exorbitant compensation, and that such is the brutal ferocity and fanaticism of the population, displayed upon all occasions where slaves are concerned, that resident counsel there are overawed and paralyzed in their efforts for their clients; that the witnesses upon whom the prisoner relies,