

to prove his innocence, are poor men, unable to bear the expenses of so long a journey without compensation, and that unless some protection, public or private, beyond the limits of the State of Pennsylvania, is extended to him in his present deplorable condition, that the prisoner will, for the simple exercise of an acknowledged constitutional right, through the chicanery and contrivances of his fanatical oppressors, in all probability, for the balance of his life, be consigned to the Penitentiary of Pennsylvania. I told them that if those facts were satisfactorily sustained by affidavits, I thought it a case proper for the action of the Executive of the State of Maryland; not of course in making any demand for his release from Jail, for he must abide his trial under the Laws and Constitution of his country, but, that your Excellency would appropriate from the Contingent Fund, always for proper purposes at the disposal of every Executive, so much as might found necessary, to engage able and intrepid counsel to appear in his defence, and to defray the necessary expenses of the witnesses, whose presence might be important at the trial. It occurred to me, that in addition to this pecuniary aid, there was an importance of no light character to be attached to the active interposition of the State of Maryland in such a case. I have assumed, in my course, that the government of Maryland, having the same identity of interest and feeling, would regard the case as I feel well assured it would be regarded by the government of Virginia, if a citizen of this commonwealth was now in the situation of Jonathan Little. I hazard nothing in saying that we would expend the last dollar in our Treasury, before we would suffer a citizen of Virginia, to lie incarcerated in a loathsome cell,—a victim of brutal fanaticism, when the attack upon that citizen is purposely and deliberately designed to be an attack upon our vital institutions—rather than fail to extend to him all the legitimate and constitutional aid in our power.

This is not a case for individual action, nor for private liberality. It is emphatically a State affair. The judicial power of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania is invoked by blind and reckless fanatics and abolitionists to crush a citizen of Maryland for lending his aid and assistance to maintain and preserve a vital institution of your State. It is under the shield of *her* sovereignty, that this injustice and oppression is practised. It is essential to the safety of the prisoner;—it is material to the preservation of the institution of Slavery, that some power, higher than that of a mere individual should be seen to sympathise in his wrongs and to step forward in his defence. The cause of Jonathan Little is the common cause of every slaveholder in the Union;—it is more especially the common cause of every slaveholder in Maryland, from your continual exposure to similar outrages, and because he is a citizen of Maryland, and has a right to look to *your State* for protection and defence.

The Constitution of the United States, secures to us the right to seize and recapture our fugitive Slaves in every State and Terri.