

tory over which its power extends. It is a provision, without the adoption of which, not one Southern State would ever have become a party to the existing Federal compact. The legislation and action of the non-slaveholding States, under this sacred and fundamental guaranty of the Constitution, exhibit, perhaps, the most striking and atrocious example of a violation of public faith, that is to be found in the annals of modern history. We can expect nothing from them. The whole course of their legislation is so contrived as to embarrass, defeat and destroy our rights.— Congress has, so far, failed to perform the high duties which the Constitution has devolved upon it, and such is the progress of fanaticism in that body, that it would exhibit an insane credulity to suppose, that any adequate provision will ever be adopted by them, to protect and enforce our rights. We are, consequently, thrown back upon ourselves to repel aggression, and to guard our rights from invasion. And if the Southern States do not prove faithful and true to their own interests and to the rights of their own citizens, desperate and degraded must our condition become.

This pending prosecution in Huntingdon county, is one of those rabid abolitionary movements, which is not limited in its results to the individual fate, hard as that may be, of Jonathan Little. It purposely aims, in this act, a fatal stab at the institution of Slavery. Its purpose, is to deter all persons hereafter, from going to Pennsylvania in pursuit of their fugitive Slaves. Its object is to annihilate the constitutional rights of the slaveholder, and to nullify, by judicial force and oppression, the sacred guarantees of the Federal compact. It is intended to proclaim to the Slave, that in Pennsylvania he may secure an asylum from pursuit,—a place of refuge, into which his white pursuer dare not enter. And if the citizen of a slaveholding State, in the exercise of his acknowledged constitutional rights, may thus, upon a false charge be arrested—thrown into prison, loaded with irons, and treated with a barbarity which is now almost universally repudiated in the case of the worst of felons; if there be no voice of sufficient power to reach his oppressor, no arm of sufficient strength to rescue him from impending infamy and peril;—if he is to be left to his fate, undefended and without the active sympathies of those having a common cause with him, who can fail to perceive how disastrous must be the influence of a single fact like this, upon the general interests of the slaveholders of the South? What a stimulent to the slave to escape from his master! What an encouragement to the abolitionists to pursue his wicked machinations amongst us! What an insuperable difficulty to the recapture of slaves absconding from us! the fate of Jonathan Little would at once spread an alarm amongst all that class of men, both in Maryland and Pennsylvania, upon whose services we can alone rely for the recapture of the slaves that escape from us.

In most of the free States, the fugitive Slave is, by express law, defended in his right to freedom at the *public cost*. And this, as a