

section of the act of 1850, as will render it efficient for the purposes contemplated in its adoption; and

Secondly. To respectfully urge upon the Legislature of Pennsylvania the passage of a law by which the *facts* in each criminal case involving the effect of the clause in the Constitution of the United States for the surrender of "Fugitives from labor," and of the acts of Congress made in pursuance thereof, may be placed on the record, so that all such cases may be reviewed, at the option of either party, in the highest State Courts, and thence carried to the Supreme Court of the United States.

Your Committee cordially approve the "Compromise Acts" of Congress, and regard them as a *finality*; but, in expressing this opinion, they do not understand that Congress is to remain passive when experience has demonstrated the necessity of amending any one of those measures so as to render it *efficient* and *operative*, as it was originally intended to be. If the Fugitive Slave Law was passed in good faith, as part of a system of compromise, then the same good faith requires that it shall be practically executed, and that, if "pains and penalties are necessary to its efficient enforcement, they shall be unhesitatingly inflicted—otherwise the South will find herself cheated by a delusive and impotent law, which she accepted in good faith, and relied upon as a living, active principle of government.

It has now been demonstrated that appeals to the loyalty of the people in some sections of the North, for assistance against armed rebels to the laws, are idle and useless, and that there are men wicked and disloyal enough to stand by with folded arms and see the ministers of the law butchered in the act of executing their sworn duties. Is this the compromise we of the South were promised? Is this the happy re-union of hearts to which we were invited, as the fruits of an honorable adjustment? If so, look at the results. Our confiding citizens are ruthlessly butchered when they were promised protection, and instead of a restoration of their property when they seek it, under the invitation of Congress, they are welcomed within the borders of our sister States of the North, "with bloody hands and hospitable graves!"

Your committee does not and can never agree, that the lives of their fellow citizens of the South, shall continue to be thus sacrificed to an empty but higher sounding law. We require *substance* and not *form*, the *practical execution of the law of the land*, and not the delusive parade of a mere form of words upon parchment. The first duty of Maryland is to protect the lives and property of her citizens, and no consideration can restrain her from demanding of the general government, that security and protection for her citizens in the pursuit of their rights, to which they are so clearly entitled under the constitution. To surrender this great public duty, is to be recreant to her high and holy trust, as the mother of her people; and in her name, honored as