

it has ever been, we protest against so great a sacrilege—so deep a disgrace. We but speak the voice of the people of Maryland when we say, that Congress *must* enforce the Fugitive Slave Act, by new and adequate penalties. It is vain to say that the law is on the statute book. We know that, as it now stands, it is worthless, utterly. How few are the slaves that have been restored to their owners under its provisions, and at what great cost have not these few been thus restored?

The cost of capturing a fugitive slave, even where the master may chance to be successful, is greater than his value, and yet masters have attempted to enforce their rights, even at a pecuniary loss and the risk of life, because they felt it their solemn duty to assert, at any cost and all hazard, their chartered rights, which had been ruthlessly invaded.

To guard this great constitutional right, therefore, Congress should adopt the most stringent measures to arm the officers of the law with the "posse comitatus," in *all* cases where resistance is made; and to secure a faithful and reliable "posse comitatus," there must be adequate *penalties* inflicted on every man who refuses to aid in the the execution of *this*, as of any other act of Congress.

With regard to our second proposition, we presume no argument will be needed to show its propriety. The manifest justice of such a law in securing from invasion the rights of all parties, whilst it would obviate the danger of collisions between the citizens of our respective States (which must inevitably occur should these acts of aggression be continued and no adequate remedy provided for them,) will we trust, at once commend it to the favorable consideration of the government and people of Pennsylvania, as a measure eminently wise, just and politic.

Your committee, therefore, beg leave to submit the following resolutions, the adoption of which, by this Legislature, they earnestly recommend:

Resolved, By the General Assembly of Maryland, That Maryland is, and ever has been true and loyal to the American Union; and whilst she is ever willing, when the occasion requires it, to pour out her blood and treasure in its defence, she expects and *requires* that its laws shall afford equal protection to the constitutional rights of *her* people, to that enjoyed by the citizens of other States.

Resolved, That whilst the people of Maryland most cordially acquiesce in the *principles* embraced in the compromise measures of Congress, as a final adjustment of *all* the questions growing out of the institution of slavery, common justice, as well as a proper regard for their own rights, require that they should insist, whenever either of those measures shall be found defective in its practical operations, that it shall be so amended as to render it efficient for the purposes contemplated in its adoption.