

desire to remedy the evils our people suffer. Your committee, for want of time and the delicate and difficult nature of the undertaking, have not been able to agree on what would be the best mode Pennsylvania could adopt to protect us against the grievances we complain of. If they could have done so, they would have advised the Pennsylvania committee of it, in compliance with their request. Want of time now puts it out of your committee's power to do any thing more this session, but as the matter referred to them is of deep interest to the state, they would respectfully recommend, that some member of the legislature should be requested to turn his attention to it during the recess, and to correspond with any committee, or individual, that may be selected for the purpose by the legislature of Pennsylvania, and to report the result to the next general assembly.

R. JOHNSON,
W. C. MILLER,
A. LEE,

JOHN CHAUNCEY,
L. J. DENNIS.

To the Senate and House of Delegates of Maryland.
February 24th, 1823.

SENATE CHAMBER, Harrisburg, Feb. 1823.

Gentlemen—Your communication respecting the protection given by some of the citizens of this state to slaves who have absconded from their owners in the state of Maryland, has been read in the senate, which, together with a message from his excellency the governor of your state, enclosing a resolution of the legislature passed on the 21st of February last, has been referred to the undersigned, who have been appointed a committee to take the same into consideration. The resolution to which we refer, was not taken up at the last session, in consequence of the late period at which it was presented, and the press of business which it was necessary at that time to dispose of; this we presume will be a sufficient apology for what might otherwise be considered a neglect of the former legislature in not attending to that communication.

We regret that any circumstance should have occurred which is calculated to create discord or uneasiness between the citizens of the two states, and as it is our duty, so it will be our sincere disposition, to endeavour to bring this subject to such a conclusion, as shall be calculated to promote that good will, and cordial harmony, which ought, and which we hope may always prevail between two states, whose citizens belong to the same common family, and whose mutual interests and welfare are so intimately connected.

We have not ascertained that any law is in existence, at present, relative to this subject, except the acts of March 1st, 1780, entitled, An act for the gradual abolition of slavery; and of March 27th, 1820, entitled, An act to prevent kidnapping; which last mentioned act prohibits the justices and aldermen within this commonwealth, from enforcing the act of congress passed the 12th day of February 1793, entitled, An act respecting fugitives from justice, and persons escaping from the service of their masters, and prescribes the duty of a judge or recorder of any court of record of this commonwealth, granting certificates or warrants of removal of negroes or mulattoes, to the state or territory from which they fled, when claimed in pursuance of the said act of congress to be fugitives from labour. We also find a provision in the 8th section of the 9th article of the constitution of this state, that no warrant to search any place, or seize any person or things, should issue, without describing them as nearly as may be, nor without probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation. The general abhorrence of slavery which prevails in this state, and the enthusiastic zeal which pervades the minds of certain classes of our citizens, have a strong tendency, without doubt to divert the officer from the line of his duty, and to embarrass and to perplex the master in the recovery of his slave. It may be necessary to establish some stronger measures relative to this business; what these measures should be, we have not yet considered, and would be pleased with a communication expressive of your ideas thereon.

And while we assure you, that this subject shall receive our serious attention, and that it will give us much pleasure if, through our efforts, such alteration can be effected in the existing laws, as will tend to remove all further inconveniences, so far as the same may be consistent with the constitution of this state, and with the rights and liberties of its citizens. We also request that you will be pleased to accept the assurance of our highest respect.

*Daniel Groves, Robert Smith, Ja. Lyster,
James B. Hubley, Alex. Mahon.*

R. Johnson, Wm. C. Miller, Arch. Lee,
Littleton J. Dennis, and John Chauncey, Esquires, Annapolis, Md.

Mr. Johnson from the committee on revolutionary pensions made an unfavorable report on the resolution in favor of James Leonard of Cecil county; which report was assented to. The resolution was then read a second and third time by special order, rejected, and returned to the house of delegates. The resolution in favor of Charles Robertson of Frederick county, was read a second and third time by special order, rejected, and returned to the house of delegates.

The resolution in favor of capt. James Cochran of Cecil county, was read a second and third time, assented to, and returned to the house of delegates.

The resolution in favor of James White of Montgomery county, was read a second and third time by special order, assented to, and returned to the house of delegates.

The resolution in favor of James M'Collister, was twice read by special order, rejected, and returned to the house of delegates.

The clerk of the house of delegates delivered a resolution relative to a correspondence with the legislature of Pennsylvania; which was three times read, assented to, and returned to the house of delegates.