

ping, under a certain Act of Assembly of Pennsylvania, passed in 1847, and the trial continued to the November term of their Court. I made application, detailing all the circumstances of the case, to the Governor of Pennsylvania, for a *nolle prosequi*, which I thought would be the proper answer to a proceeding begun for such cause, and continued through such incidents. This was not granted; and, considering the importance of the rights involved to our citizens holding slaves, which are frequently induced to run off to Pennsylvania, where they are constantly aided, harbored, and protected against the lawful claims of their owners, I thought it due to these interests to appoint some eminent counsel to represent the State at the trial. I therefore requested Jonathan Meredith, Esq., of Baltimore, to proceed to Carlisle, as Counsel for this State, to defend there her interests, and to afford also the aid of his advice and counsel in the defence of Myers. The result of the trial was the conviction of Myers alone, under the act referred to, which, I am informed, appears to have been framed specially with the intent to evade the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, in Prigg's case, carried up by consent of the two States, upon a case agreed, in order to settle the rights of those whose slaves fled into Pennsylvania to recapture them without the hindrance of the State authorities or penal laws. An arrangement has also been made, I understand, since the conviction, by the counsel of Myers, under which he has been discharged, upon his own recognizance, to appear for sentence; which will not be moved for, since he has purchased, and restored to their residence in Pennsylvania, the slaves whom he had taken under the guarantees of the Constitution of the United States. The counsel for this State has sued out, by my direction, a writ of error from the Supreme Court; so that the validity of the Pennsylvania Act, which presumes to punish as a crime the lawful recapture in that State, under the Constitution of the United States, of fugitives from service, may be tested in that Court; and so that rights, which are of the highest importance to our citizens, may be vindicated by the highest tribunal in the land. I respectfully ask that you will make an appropriation, consonant with the importance of the case, to compensate the Counsel for the State, and discharge the expenses incident to this proceeding.

The attacks of fanatical and misguided persons against property in slaves, and the warfare carried on by certain parties in the States north of us, against the rights of citizens in those States which still retain the institution of slavery, were formerly confined to a few; who were forced to content themselves with refusing assistance to, or placing obstacles in the way of, our citizens, who proceeded to those States, under the guarantees of the Constitution, to recover their property.