

APRIL 19, 1830.

Read twice, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday next.

Mr. WASHINGTON, from the Committee for the District of Columbia, reported the following bill:

A BILL

Concerning slavery in the District of Columbia.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That*
3 it shall not hereafter be lawful for any person to import or
4 bring within the District of Columbia, except as is hereinaf-
5 ter provided, any slave or slaves, whether held to service for
6 life, or for any term of years; and any person imported or
7 brought into said District as a slave, contrary to this act, if a
8 slave before, shall immediately be free; and the freedom giv-
9 en by this act, shall not be deemed a mere penalty upon the
10 individual importing or bringing in any person as a slave as
11 aforesaid, but shall be the right and privilege, and for the
12 benefit of the person so imported and brought in; and this
13 section shall, in regard to the right of such person, be constru-
14 ed to be a remedial law.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That* citizens of the
2 said District owning slaves, or acquiring them in any lawful
3 manner in any of the States or Territories of the United States,
4 may, from time to time, remove their slaves into said District.

5 And persons travelling, or making a temporary or transient stay
6 in the said District, may bring in and keep with them their
7 domestic slaves, during their continuance in the said District:
8 but it shall not be lawful for any person to sell any slave
9 permitted to be brought into said District, in either manner
10 as aforesaid, until such person shall have continued to reside
11 with such slave in said District, at least three whole years
12 next before such sale, except in case of disposition by the last
13 will and testament of the owner of such slave, or of disposi-
14 tion by law for payment of *bona fide* debts, or consequent up-
15 on intestacy; nor shall any thing contained in this act be con-
16 strued to apply to slaves hired in said District, and owned by
17 citizens of Virginia or Maryland.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That nothing in this
2 act shall be construed to prevent any person residing in the
3 said District from sending his or her slaves out of the said
4 District, upon his or her own business, and bringing such
5 slave or slaves back again, so as such slave or slaves not be
6 kept out of the said District more than one whole year at any
7 one time; nor shall any such return or bringing back be deem-
8 ed an importation or bringing in of such slave or slaves, so as
9 to entitle such slave or slaves to freedom; and if any slave
10 shall have been carried out of the said District, during the in-
11 fancy, or without the consent of the lawful owner of such
12 slave, or shall have run away, such lawful owner may at any

13 time thereafter bring such slave into the District of Columbia
14 again, and hold him or her as his slave.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That no dealer in
2 slaves, nor other person who may have purchased, or claimed
3 to have purchased, any slave, for the purpose of carrying such
4 slave out of the District of Columbia, shall, in said District,
5 confine or imprison, or cause to be confined or imprisoned, in
6 any house, or other building, or in any ship, or other vessel;
7 any slave held by such dealer, or purchased, or claimed to have
8 been purchased, as aforesaid, by such other person, until the
9 name, age, sex, last place of residence, and former owner (if
10 any) of such slave, shall have been reported, in writing, to the
11 Clerk of the Circuit Court of the county in which such slave
12 may be holden, and a certified copy of such report, under the
13 seal of the court, shall have been obtained and delivered to the
14 person who may occupy, or have charge of, the house, build-
15 ing, ship, or vessel, in which such slave is to be confined; which
16 certified copy shall be, by the person to whom the same shall
17 be delivered as aforesaid, shown to any person desiring to see
18 the same; and, if any slave dealer, or other person, shall con-
19 fine or imprison, or cause to be confined or imprisoned, any
20 such slave, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this sec-
21 tion, such slave dealer, or other person, shall forfeit and pay
22 fifty dollars for every slave so unlawfully confined or impri-
23 soned, one half to the United States, and the other half to the

24 informer: and if the occupier, or person who has the charge
25 of the house, building, ship, or vessel, in which such slave
26 may be confined or imprisoned, shall refuse, while such slave
27 shall be so confined or imprisoned, to show the certified copy
28 of the said report to any person, on demand, the person so re-
29 fusing shall forfeit and pay twenty dollars for each slave so im-
30 prisoned or confined, one half thereof to the United States, and
31 the other half to the informer.

1 **SEC. 5.** *And be it further enacted,* That, for every cer-
2 tificate granted by the Clerk as aforesaid, he shall be entitled
3 to receive the sum of twenty-five cents for the certificate, and
4 five cents additional for each slave so reported as aforesaid.
5 And the penalties hereby imposed shall be sued for, and re-
6 covered, in the Circuit Courts for the counties of Alexandria
7 and Washington, in the same manner as other penalties.