

## RESOLUTIONS

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF MARYLAND,

IN FAVOR OF

*A law for the better security of the rights of the owners of runaway slaves.*

APRIL 5, 1844.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and ordered to be printed.

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

FEBRUARY 28, 1844.

Whereas it is extremely difficult for masters to recover runaway slaves who have escaped into any of the free States, in many such cases slaves being forcibly rescued after arrest, and before removal; and whereas such rescue is often made by persons owning little or no property, and the owners of such slaves, even where judgments have been obtained against such aggressors, are unable to enforce payment of the damages recovered: Therefore,

*Be it resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That our Senators and Representatives in Congress be requested to use their exertions to effect the passage of a law by that body, making the rescue of any runaway slave, from the master or person authorized to apprehend the same, a criminal offence, punishable by imprisonment, in all cases where the party offending shall not be able to remunerate the injured party in damages.

*Be it further resolved,* That his Excellency the Governor is hereby requested to forward a copy of this preamble and resolutions to our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

We hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the original resolutions which passed both branches of the General Assembly of Maryland, at December session, 1843.

Given under our hands, at the city of Annapolis, this 25th day of March, 1844.

GEORGE G. BREWER,

*Clerk of the House of Delegates of Maryland.*

JOSEPH H. NICHOLSON,

*Clerk of the Senate of Maryland.*