

thorized and requested to appoint some suitable person as a commissioner to repair to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and endeavor to procure the dismissal of the prosecutions pending against the said Nathan S. Bemis, Jacob Forwood, Edward Prigg, and Stephen Lewis, citizens of Maryland, or make such arrangements as may be necessary to refer the questions involved to the Supreme Court of the United States without compromising the liberty of the accused, and obtain such modification of the Laws of Pennsylvania, as will preserve the rights of Slave-holders and cherish good will between the two States."

As it is desirable that the negotiation contemplated by this Resolution in reference to the several objects stated, should proceed with as little delay as possible. I must ask leave to call your attention to such measures as shall be deemed necessary for that purpose by the Executive of Pennsylvania.

I have the honor to be,

with great respect,

your most obed^t. servant,

J. MEREDITH.

Harrisburg,

Friday Evening, April 15th, 1838.

No. 4.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

Harrisburg. April 14, 1838.

Sir:—Your letter of yesterday evening, containing a copy of one of the joint resolutions of the Senate and House of Delegates of the State of Maryland, (the one in pursuance of which you act) has been received.

In reply to your request, that such measures as may be necessary to the commencement of the negotiation contemplated by the resolution, shall be adopted with as little delay as possible, I am instructed by Governor Ritner to say, that there is no power vested in the Executive of Pennsylvania, to agree to any of the propositions of the State of Maryland, on the subject involved; they can only be acted on by the Legislature. The Governor, however, directs me to express his readiness to announce your arrival, as commissioner on the part of Maryland to the Legislature at any time you may designate, and to urge such a consideration of the matter, as courtesy to your State and the grave nature of the subject require.

At the same time that he makes this offer, the Governor is of opinion that no legislative action can possibly take place during