

in air and costume, that he special-
aged our attention. We at first surmised
might be some Lancaster county farm-
those warm personal friendship for Mr.
hanan had caused him to break through
rules of conventional etiquette, to secure a
favorable position to hear and see, but a closer
view of his clear, lustrous, intelligent eye, and
delicate hands, assured us that he was not only
a man of more than ordinary intelligence, but
that he did not earn his bread by holding plow
handles or by "splitting rails."

But what could he be? The gentlemen who
travel as escorts to Presidents and other digni-
taries are generally supposed to pay a little
extra attention to their wardrobe; but this lit-
tle man looked as if his special mission in this
world was to treat Beau Brummel with that
contempt which the prince of fops certainly
deserves, but does not always receive, even
from otherwise sensible people.

Our curiosity was soon cut short, however,
for the little man arose, and with a self-assu-
rance that would have been refreshing in a
Senator or learned counsellor, addressed him-
self to the Mayor of the city, while the ex-Pres-
ident and the military officers on the stand
respectfully moved their beavers and cha-
peaus. We prepared to be bored with a tedious
attempt to talk, whereas we had come pre-
pared to report a pretty and feeling speech
from an ex-President. We slipped the report-
orial note book under the left arm, and twirled
our "Wm. Mann Extra, No. 2," between the
thumb and first finger of the right hand, just
as a sagacious reporter is sure to do when he
prepares to stand out a speech which he thinks
too dull to report.

Why has the note book so suddenly opened
and the pencil essayed to perform its duty?—
The first sentences which fall from the little
man's lips tell us that he is an orator in the
fullest sense of the term—one of the few whose
musical intonations and sentences defy the
skill of everything except the phonographic
pencil. That speech, though heard by very
few present, was one of the most beautiful and
eloquent we ever heard. At its conclusion we
inquired who the speaker was, and were in-
formed that we had just listened to Wm. P.
Preston, Esq., of Maryland, the ablest crim-
inal lawyer and one of the most eloquent men in
the State, and thereupon we determined never
again to judge a man by first impressions.

That our readers may understand the force
of this pleasing incident, we give in full the
speech made by Mr. Preston, later in the day,
which we regard as a model of eloquence.
During the delivery of Mr. P.'s remarks,
which were warmly applauded, Mr. Bu-
chanan evinced much feeling. His niece, Miss
Lane, stood near her venerable uncle, and
sympathized even to tears. The whole scene
was solemnly impressive, and can never be
forgotten by those who witnessed it.

It was our pleasure to form the acquaintance
of this warm-hearted man, and it is no exag-
geration to say that his impassioned eloquence
is not confined to his public efforts. His ordi-

ions of two such authorities, it seems to us no
wise man in Mr. Lincoln's place ought long to
hesitate."

The Tribune groans, moans and howls.
Hear it.

"Better at once give up the federal govern-
ment as an exploded humbug, than attempt to
carry it on with half our ports open to foreign
goods without paying duty, or at least without
paying any into the federal treasury. * *
And—ungracious as it may seem—we cannot
feel nor affect thankfulness for that kind of
acquiescence in the rule of President Lincoln
which exacts of him an abdication of the essen-
tial function of his office as a condition prece-
dent, and strips him of half his rightful power
while conceding him his title and salary."

A Washington correspondent of the Tribune
writes:

There is a great fever among the republicans
in the city on account of the orders for the
retirement of the troops from Fort Sumter.
Every man is ferocious at the bare idea of
such a thing. The act is deprecated and de-
nounced in every form of anathema; yet it is
an act in which the Cabinet are compelled to
be comparatively passive. They merely fol-
low the judgment of Gen. Scott, who advises
the evacuation, and, of course, takes the
whole responsibility of the act. But the reason
of its surrender must not be misunderstood.
It is done wholly because it cannot now be
reinforced before the supplies of the garrison
are exhausted.

The rumors about Fort Pickens being given
up is entirely unfounded. This fortress can
be reinforced, and will be. The Forts at Key
West and Tortugas cannot be given up, be-
cause they may be easily reinforced, and are
of national importance in military and com-
mercial aspects. Fort Sumter involved a point
of honor only.

An extra session of Congress is likely to be
soon called to supply the omission of the last,
and enable the administration to assert the
authority of the government. The policy will
probably be to repeal the laws making ports
of seceding States ports of foreign entry, and
to station national vessels thereat to prevent
foreign importations.

The National Intelligencer says:

"We need not say that we receive this intel-
ligence [the proposed evacuation] with great
satisfaction, which is enhanced by the reason
assigned in explanation of the decision to
which the administration is said to have come
in the premises. In making such a concession
to the cause of conciliation and the preserva-
tion of the public peace, the federal govern-
ment will strengthen itself in the hearts of the
people throughout all the States in which a
spirit of apprehension now prevails."

The Philadelphia Pennsylvanian says:

If the news be true that Mr. Lincoln has de-
cided to evacuate Sumter, then will he present
the world with a gratifying evidence of some
capacity to grapple with the important ques-

that they are right in denouncing slavery, and
God wrong in permitting it."

THE RESIGNATION OF ADJUTANT GENERAL
COOPER.—The resignation of Colonel Samuel
Cooper, Adjutant General of the United States
army, has created much surprise. A writer
in the New York Express says:

Colonel Cooper is a native of New York,
graduated from the West Point Academy with
very high honors, and has long resided in
Washington. He married a sister of Senator
Mason, of Virginia. Capt. Sydney Smith Lee,
of the navy, son of Light Horse Harry of
the Revolution, and brother of Col. Robert
Lee, of Arlington, married a sister of Mrs.
Cooper. Col. Cooper has a very large family;
some ten or twelve children, and as the world
goes now-a-days, is in point of property, a
poor man; his sole income being derived from
his army pay, which amounts now to about
\$5,000 a year, yet he resigns this, with his
large and interesting family on his hands, and
subsides, at the age of fifty-five, from a high
military position to that of a private citizen?
For what? Aye, why does Colonel Cooper of
northern birth, calmly resign his commission
in the United States army, and his five thou-
sand a year? He does it because he knows
from his official position that *civil war is im-
minent*, and because he is not willing to be
made an instrument by Abraham Lincoln for
shedding the blood of his children's kindred.

SENTENCE OF LIGGETT.—James W. Liggett,
of Washington county, Md., convicted at
Frederick of obtaining money under false
pretenses, has been denied a new trial, and
sentenced to imprisonment in the jail of the
former county for six months, to pay a fine of
\$50, and to refund to the party who was
swindled the sum of \$500. The facts in this
case are as follows:

About the first of September last Mr. John
A. Gordon, of Spottsylvania, received notice
that a runaway slave of his was in Pennsyl-
vania, but that he could be recovered. James
W. Liggett, of Washington county, Md., was
the bearer of the intelligence, and he agreed,
for the sum of \$700, to secure the apprehen-
sion of the slave, and deliver him in Hagers-
town. Accordingly, in a few days, Mr. Gor-
don left home, and, arriving in Hagerstown,
paid Liggett \$700, after which the slave was
given into the custody of his master. Subse-
quent events satisfied Mr. Gordon that he had
been wrongfully dealt with, and that his slave
was in the Hagerstown jail when Liggett vis-
ited him in Virginia, and bargained for \$700.—
He thereupon prosecuted Liggett for obtaining
money under false pretenses.

THE FEDERAL OFFICES IN BALTIMORE.—A
republican writes to the New York Tribune
concerning the federal offices in this city, as
follows:

Mr. Norris continued that there was a gov-
ernmental obstacle which should be removed.
The Governor seemed to have one policy for
the Eastern Shore, one for the Fountain Inn,
and perhaps another for Annapolis. After all
the Governor had done, we still hold him up
as an object whose authority should be res-
pected. A committee had been sent to him,
and he promised to give the subject his deep
consideration, when at the same time he had
written to the commissioner from Alabama his
determination to take no such step as was de-
sired. He wanted all the action in future to
be without regard to enemies and false politi-
cians. It was time to discard them as guides
to a simple, frank and manly people. Their
whole proceedings were but devices to lead
them on.

The chair called the speaker to order, saying
that his remarks were foreign to the question
before the body, to wit: the raising of a com-
mittee.

Mr. Norris said he thought he had the right,
in his argument, to request the committee to
take no notice of Gov. Hicks in their delibera-
tions.

Elias Griswold, of Dorchester, said he hoped
the committee would not, when raised, have
any regard whatever for the individual who,
by complaisance, was called the Governor of
Maryland.

The proposition to reappoint the committee,
and to refer all propositions to such commit-
tee, was adopted.

R. M. McLane said after the action of all the
other border States, it seemed to him useless
for this body to do anything more. The State
of Maryland was helpless. The President had
spoken equivocally in his inaugural, but it
meant a resort to arms against the seceded
States. He wished, therefore, that no action
should be taken in conflict with the State or
the federal authority. They should work in
the Union, for anything else would be revolt,
and he wanted the lie thrown into the teeth of
those who called them revolutionists. He
wanted to fight the battle in the Union and un-
der the constitution, and when all honorable
efforts fail, then they are ready to co-operate
with Virginia and the other slave States in re-
volution. He would like that course of action
to be adopted, and to make it known to Vir-
ginia. They had waited for Virginia to secede,
but it was clear now that she will not, and it
would be madness in Maryland to do so. He
believed, if that policy was pursued, they
would be successful in the conflict in the
Union. He would appeal to the people at the
ballot box. He would select men pledged to
the Union so long as constitutional rights could
be had, and when they could no longer be ob-
tained, to go out of the Union.

H. Clay Dallam was opposed to revolutions.
He would go before the people at once, and let
them say whether they will be governed by
any or all of the border States. He would
thus avoid the President of the United States
and the Governor of Maryland, and call upon
the people to determine what they will do. He

strive to separate us from our sister Southern
States; therefore

Resolved, That truth and manhood requires
this convention to express its most decided
conviction that the destinies of the State of
Maryland should be inseparably connected
with the Southern slave States, and that we
are bound to them by sympathy, affection
and mutual interest.

"Resolved, That in the opinion of this con-
vention, the prosperity of the city of Baltimore,
the emporium and heart of the State, is de-
pendent mainly in its trade and connection
with the South, and that the union of the State
of Maryland with a northern confederacy
would give a fatal blow to its commercial,
manufacturing and mechanical interests."

S. Teakle Wallis offered the following reso-
lution:

"Resolved, That the committee be instructed
to consider and report what action, if any,
may be rendered proper by the prospective
adoption of the resolutions now before the
Virginia convention contemplating a conven-
tion or conference of the border States."

In presenting the resolution, Mr. W. said,
he thought in the event of such a convention,
Maryland should not be represented by dele-
gates appointed as were those to the Peace
Congress. In such convention Virginia would
be heard, and Maryland should be represented
by delegates from the people who would bind
her.

The convention then adjourned until eleven
o'clock this morning.

RETURN OF U. S. TROOPS FROM TEXAS.—
Yesterday the Star of the West was to have
sailed from New York for Indianolis, Texas,
to bring back a load of troops. She takes out 30
days' rations for 600 men. This will be the
third steamer (following the Daniel Webster
and Empire City) which the government has
dispatched for the transportation of its troops
in Texas to New York or other places within
the acknowledged jurisdiction of the United
States. The Journal of Commerce says:

As each steamer was intended to take away
only 600 men, there will still be nearly 1,000 to
provide a passage for. A fourth steamer will,
therefore, be sent out within a week, or as soon
as it can be chartered and got ready; and a fifth
will doubtless follow at the earliest possible
day. As it is not easy to find suitable steam-
ers, perhaps the government will wait till the
Daniel Webster returns, and charter her for a
second voyage. Within a month there will
probably not be a single United States soldier
in Texas.

It is expected that the troops thus returned
will be distributed to Forts Munroe, Washing-
ton and Hamilton. Should Major Anderson
evacuate Fort Sumter, he will probably be or-
dered to Fort Munroe.

of the following persons: Wm. H. Rundles,
foreman; Wm. T. Kelley, H. Razer, H. Muzzle,
George Ingle, George H. Trainer, J. Romoser,
T. Heller, John Hoffman, Geo. Bowersmith,
P. Rouss and T. Lindefeldter.

Among the witnesses examined were Mrs.
Myers, George Cross, Charles Jump, John
O'Neil and Catherine Denny, the mother of
the deceased. She appeared stupefied and un-
able to fully realize her situation. From what
could be gathered from her narrative and the
statements of the neighbors, it appeared that
the children had been sick, and it was neces-
sary to burn a candle near the bed in which
they slept.

The candle was placed on a stand about two
feet from the bed, the stand being covered with
a cotton cloth. The children were put to bed
about 7 o'clock in the evening, and it is sup-
posed the candle burned down in the socket
and set the cover of the table on fire. There
were three children in bed, the oldest, aged
about seven years, escaping unhurt. The fire
alarm occurred at 35 minutes past 9 o'clock.
No cries were heard, and the victims were
evidently suffocated to death. The jury ren-
dered the following verdict: "That Jenny and
Mary Ann Denny came to their deaths by being
burned in their bed, in the house of their
mother, Catherine Denny, No. 66 South How-
ard street—the fire originating from a candle,
carelessly used about the bed by the said Cath-
erine Denny while intoxicated."

The women, Catherine Denny, the mother
of the children, and Mary Wells, arrested upon
the night of the occurrence, and held as wit-
nesses, were both released yesterday. Yes-
terday afternoon the parent of the deceased
children having failed to provide for their
burial, the bodies were placed in coffins, and
buried at the expense of the city.

The house in which the tragedy occurred
was not much damaged by the fire, neither the
others to which it communicated; the greatest
damage, to furniture and stock, resulting from
the water thrown.

The Murder in Baltimore County.—The murder
of William Snyder at the Four-mile House, on
the Washington road, Baltimore county, the
particulars of which were published yester-
day, appears to have been committed by a
party of three men, who were entirely with-
out provocation for the assault. William Mit-
ten, who resides in Vine street, near Fremont,
was one of Snyder's companions at the time
he met his death. He states that they were
approached by three men whose faces they
could not recognize for the darkness. After
beating Snyder insensible, his assailants drag-
ged his body along for some distance, and
threw it on the railroad track, to create the sup-
position that he had met his death by a rail-
road train. Mitten, who was also badly beat-
ten, dragged Snyder's body away after his
assailants had left them, and gave the alarm.—
Dr. Charles O'Donovan, of this city, was call-
ed on Monday morning and made a post-mor-
tem examination of the skull of deceased, and

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COURTS.
U. S. District Court.—Judge Giles.—John
W. Maxfield having been placed at the bar,
he withdrew his plea of not guilty made yester-
day, and pleaded guilty to the indictment
for purloining letters and money from the
Baltimore postoffice. Judge Giles on pro-
nouncing sentence, expressed the pain he felt
at the necessity of consigning to prison so
young a man, whose innocent family must
suffer the consequences of the crime. [The
prisoner is about 30 years of age, and has a
wife and five children. At the allusion to his
family the prisoner bowed his head and wept
freely.] The court sentenced him to ten years
imprisonment in the State's prison. [The pen-
alty for the offense is imprisonment from ten
to twenty-one years.]

John Williams, indicted for mutinous con-
duct on board the ship Princess Royal on her
passage from Callao to Annapolis, with guano,
was tried—verdict not guilty. The trial of
Charles Lather, indicted for the same offense,
will take place to-day.

City Circuit Court.—Judge Krebs.—Henry
Brinckmeyer vs. Charles Brinckmeyer and the
Bank of Baltimore. The injunction heretofore
granted in this case was dissolved—the receiv-
er appointed discharged, and the bill of com-
plainant dismissed by account of parties.

Susanna Rauck vs. Frederick Rauck—ap-
plication for a divorce dismissed.

Superior Court.—Judge Martin.—Troxall,
etc., vs. Applegarth, etc., garnishee—before re-
ported—not concluded.

Assignment for to-day 604 to 642.

[Reported for the Baltimore Sun.]
TOWSONTOWN, March 12.

CIRCUIT COURT FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY.
Before Judge Price.

The magistrates' appeals were resumed to-
day, and the case of George Wheeler vs. Eliza-
beth Tobine occupied the attention of the court
for the entire day. Not concluded.

[In my report of yesterday the appeal cases
under the caption of "reversals" was errone-
ously printed "removals." They are as fol-
lows:—Henry Schroeder, Henry More and
J. Stanton vs. G. F. Meitchler; Reazin G.
Reichert vs. Augustus Ahls; Dr. Chas. O. Lee
vs. Ann R. Willingham, executrix of Benj. A.
Willingham; George H. Wetter vs. James W.
McElroy; Benjamin Arthur vs. John W. Trip-
olet; Wm. Ellis vs. Henry W. Schutt; James
Knight vs. Michael Carling.]

Paul, the slave murderer at Savannah,
has died of injuries inflicted by the mob who
attempted to rescue him from the officers of
the law.

On the 5th instant the dwelling of George
J. Gardner, in Louisa county, Va., was de-
stroyed by fire. Loss \$3,000; insured in Alex-
andria for \$2,000.

Petitions to the Virginia Convention for
the prompt passage of an ordinance for imme-
diate secession are in circulation at Richmond.