

offered by the State Agricultural Society for the best-cultivated farm. The premium was presented to him through the hands of Gen. Lafayette, then on his last visit to this country. It is a beautiful tankard of English silver, and is now an heirloom at Hayfields. Upon it is this inscription: "By the hand of Lafayette, from Maryland State Agricultural Society, for best-cultivated farm, to Col. N. M. Bosley, November, 1824." Col. Bosley died in 1847, when Hayfields passed into the hands of Mr. Merryman, his nephew.

The latter was born at Hereford Farm, Baltimore Co., Md., Aug. 9, 1824, the son of Nicholas Rogers Merryman and Anna Maria Gott. The families of Merryman and Rogers emigrated together from Herefordshire, England, about the year 1650, and there were frequent intermarriages between them. The records of the court of Baltimore Town for 1659 contain the names of Nicholas Rogers as clerk of the court and Charles Merryman as foreman of the grand inquest. John Merryman's grandfather, who bore the same name, was president of the Second Branch of the first City Council of Baltimore, when James Calhoun was mayor and Hercules Courtenay president of the First Branch. These three men were active in procuring from the General Assembly the act for the incorporation of the city of Baltimore. When the present John Merryman was fifteen years old he entered the hardware-store of Richard Norris, in Baltimore, and in 1841 went out to Guayamas, Porto Rico, to the counting-house of his maternal uncle, Samuel N. Gott. He returned from the West Indies the next year to take charge of the Maryland farm property belonging to the family, and shortly afterwards settled on the fine estate of Hayfields. As first lieutenant of the Baltimore County Horse Guards, he accompanied his command to the city after the attack on the Massachusetts troops on April 19, 1861, Governor Hicks having accepted the services of the Horse Guards, which were tendered by Capt. Ridgely. The next day Lieut. Merryman was detailed with a small force to establish a post at Hayfields House, and was in communication there with Maj. Belger, of the Federal army, who was endeavoring to turn back to Pennsylvania the Union soldiers *en route* to Washington, who were congregated in large numbers along the line of the Northern Central Railroad in consequence of the burning of the bridges between Ashland and Baltimore. Lieut. Merryman offered Maj. Belger any aid that he could possibly render, even to slaughtering his own cattle to feed the Pennsylvania men. It was feared that they would eventually endeavor at all hazards to press on to Washington through Baltimore, and that the result would be a renewal of the riot and slaughter in the latter city.

In this emergency Governor Hicks ordered that the railroad bridges should be destroyed after the troops passed north, to prevent them returning with Sherman's battery and other reinforcements, as was said

to be contemplated by the Pennsylvania authorities. The execution of the Governor's order was intrusted to Lieut. Merryman, but he exercised his own discretion and burned only one bridge, south of Parkton, as he did not wish to destroy so much valuable property. On May 25, 1861, he was arrested by United States soldiers, imprisoned in Fort McHenry, and indicted for treason in connection with the burning of the bridges. His defense was that he only executed his sworn duty as an officer of the militia of Maryland. He petitioned Chief Justice Taney for *habeas corpus*, and the latter directed the issue of the writ, directed to Gen. Cadwallader, then commandant at Fort McHenry. The general refused to produce his prisoner, and the chief justice then ordered the United States marshal to bring Cadwallader before him on Tuesday, May 28th, to answer for contempt of court. The marshal made return that Gen. Cadwallader had been instructed by President Lincoln to disobey the writ and to resist him; whereupon the chief justice declared that "It is therefore very clear that John Merryman, the petitioner, is improperly held, and is entitled to be immediately discharged from imprisonment." The affair created great excitement at the time, and though Mr. Merryman was bailed to answer for treason, he was never brought to trial. In 1855 he was made president of the Board of Commissioners of Baltimore County, and in 1870 was elected treasurer of the State of Maryland for the term of two years. He was a member of the House of Delegates in 1874. As a practical farmer, he has always taken much interest in the Maryland State Agricultural Society and its successor, the Agricultural and Mechanical Association, which was organized in 1866 in pursuance of a circular which he issued. He was president of the association until 1881, when impaired health compelled him to decline the honor. Up to this time he had greatly contributed to the success of its exhibitions. He is also a member of the executive committee of the United States Agricultural Society, and president of the National Agricultural Association, and one of the trustees of the Maryland Agricultural College. He has given close attention to Hereford cattle and sheep. For cattle he received a medal and diploma at the Centennial Exhibition, and his mutton brings the highest prices in the market. His farm is a model of its kind. Mr. Merryman married Ann Louisa Gittings in 1844, and there are ten living children. Since the dissolution of the Whig party he has been a consistent Democrat, and is honored and respected throughout the State for his many sterling qualities.

**Ashland.**—The village of Ashland, fourteen miles from Baltimore, on the Northern Central Railway, has a population of 445, and is the seat of the furnaces of the Ashland Iron Company, the largest establishment of the kind in Maryland. It is described in detail in the chapter on iron manufactures elsewhere in this volume. The iron ore of the vicinity is

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