

“To EDWARD JOHNSON, Esq., Mayor of the City of Baltimore:

“The joint committee of the two Branches of the City Council, appointed to inquire into the causes and extent of the late commotions in the city, having, as enjoined upon them, requested the aid of thirteen other of their fellow-citizens, ten of whom attended in the discharge of the duty assigned them, in pursuance thereof report: that on Saturday, the 20th of June, a publication appeared in the newspaper entitled the *Federal Republican*, printed in this place, which excited great irritation in the city; that on the Monday following, the printing-office occupied by the editors of that paper was pulled down and their press destroyed. This commotion had subsided, and the transaction was under legal investigation by the Criminal Court, until Sunday the 26th of July, in the evening of which day, Alexander C. Hanson, one of the editors, with several of his friends from other counties, and one from another State, came into town, unknown to the inhabitants (or known only to a few of them) and took possession of a brick house on Charles street, that had been the late dwelling of Mr. Wagner, his partner. The committee further report, that from written documents, since found and communicated to them by the Mayor, which are subjoined to this report, it appears that the plan of renewing the paper, and of arming for the defence of the house from which it was intended to be issued, had been deliberately formed and organized some time previous, in the county, without the knowledge of the citizens of Baltimore, and all the details settled and adjusted by persons who must have been acquainted with military service. That having so taken possession of the house, they fortified it strongly, and prepared arms and ammunition to defend it; that on the next morning the editor issued from that house his paper, containing severe animadversions upon the Mayor, people, and police of Baltimore, which the editor caused to be circulated throughout the city. In the course of the same day it was known to many persons that Mr. Hanson, one of the editors, was in the house, and from the preparations for defence that were observed to be making therein, it was conjectured that he expected to be attacked. During the day, many other persons of the city went to the house, and some remained there associated with those within. Toward evening, many boys had collected in the street, opposite the house, and their noise exciting some apprehension, a neighboring magistrate endeavored to disperse them, and had nearly succeeded, when about 8 o'clock a carriage stopped at the door of the house, and a number of muskets and other articles were seen to be taken out of it and conveyed through an armed guard into the house. The boys then returned, recommenced their noise, accompanied with abusive language to the persons in the house, and began throwing stones at the windows. At this time, and for an hour or more thereafter, there did not appear more than five or six men who could be supposed to have any connection with or control

over the boys; about this period a person on the footway, endeavoring to persuade the boys from their mischief, was severely wounded in the foot by something weighty thrown from the house. The boys were repeatedly told, from the persons within, to go away and not molest them, that they were armed and would defend themselves. The boys still continuing to throw stones, two guns were fired from the upper part of the house, charged, as it is supposed, with blank cartridges, as no injury was done by them. The assemblage of people in the street at this time greatly increased, and the threats and throwing of stones at the house became more general and violent; the sashes of the lower windows were broken, and attempts made to force the door by running against it. Ten or twelve guns were fired from the house in quick succession, by which several persons in the street were wounded and one killed. About this period, application was made for military aid to prevent further mischief. Whilst the military were assembling in pursuance of an order from the General, issued in compliance with a requisition from the legal authority, frequent firing took place from the house, and three guns were fired at it. Some short time afterwards a gun was fired from the house, which killed a Doctor Gale in the street about twelve feet from the house; this circumstance greatly increased the irritation of those in the street, who soon after brought a field-piece in front of the house, but by the interposition of several citizens, were restrained from firing upon the house under an assurance that the persons in it would surrender themselves to the civil authority. The military soon after appeared, and placing themselves in front of the house, no further injury occurred. A negotiation took place from those within the house, and upon being assured that a military guard would be furnished, and every effort used by the Mayor and General to ensure their safety from violence, they surrendered themselves to the civil authority about seven o'clock on the morning of Tuesday, and were conducted to jail and committed for further examination. They were Alexander C. Hanson, Gen. Henry Lee, James M. Lingan, William Schroeder, John Thompson, William B. Bend, Otho Sprigg, Henry Kennedy, Robert Kilgour, Henry Nelson, John E. Hall, George Winchester, Peregrine Warfield, George Richards, Edward Gwinn, David Hoffman, Horatio Bigelow, Ephraim Gaither, William Gaither, Jacob Schley, Mark U. Pringle, Daniel Murray, and Richard S. Crabb. After the removal of the persons, the interior of the house was greatly injured, and the furniture in it destroyed and dispersed.

"The Committee further report, that during the course of the day the Mayor applied to the Sheriff to use particular precaution in securing the doors of the jail, which he promised to do; and about one o'clock application was made by the Mayor and other justices to the Brigadier-General to call out the military to preserve the peace and quiet of the State. Orders were issued call-

ing out a regiment of infantry, two troops of cavalry, and two companies of artillery, to parade at an appointed time and places. The Mayor, the General, and many citizens repaired to the jail in the afternoon, at which a number of persons had assembled, the much greater part of whom were peaceable and orderly citizens. Those of a different temper of mind, upon being remonstrated with, appeared to yield to the admonitions of others, and to be appeased with the assurances given that the party in jail should not be bailed or suffered to escape during the night. It became the prevailing opinion about the prison that no mischief would be attempted that night; in consequence of which, and of the insufficiency of the force assembled, the military, by the order of the General, with the approbation of the Mayor, were dismissed, and many persons left the prison and went to their homes. Shortly after dark the number of the disorderly increased, and an intention was manifested of breaking into the jail. The Mayor, with the aid of a few persons, succeeded for some time in preventing the prison door from being forced open. They being overpowered by the increased numbers and violence of the assailants, the Mayor was forced away; and the door having been previously battered, and again threatened, was opened by the turnkey. Upon the entry of the assailants they forced the inner doors, and pressed into the room in which the persons above-mentioned were confined. Here a scene of horror ensued which the Committee cannot well describe. The result was that one of the persons (General Lingan) was killed, eleven others dreadfully beaten, eight of whom were thrown together in front of the jail, supposed to be dead.

"The Committee being (by the authority under which they act) directed to the collection and report of facts, have carefully avoided the expression of an opinion on any of the causes or extent of the unhappy commotions herein reported. Other facts (but we know of none material) may have attended the above transactions, which the limited powers of the City Council do not enable them to impart to the Committee the full authority to develop.

"Adam Fonerden, Wm. Steuart, James Carey, Thomas Kell, Committee of the First Branch City Council.

"James Calhoun, John C. White, Wm. McDonald, Henry Payson, Committee of the Second Branch City Council.

"The undersigned, being requested thereto, joined the above committee in the discharge of their duty, and unite with them in the foregoing report:

"James Buchanan, Peter Little, Wm. Gwynn, Lemuel Taylor, S. Sterett, William Wilson, W. Cooke, Thorndike Chase, Robert Gilmor, John Montgomery."

From the *Federal Republican* :

"An exact and authentic narrative of the events which took place in Baltimore on the 27th and 28th of July last, carefully collected from some of the sufferers and from eye-witnesses :

“State of Maryland, s. s.

ROCKVILLE, Aug. 12, 1812.

“Personally appeared, on this 12th day of August, 1812, before John Fleming, Justice of the Peace for Montgomery county, the following persons,—Peregrine Warfield, Richard J. Crabb, Charles J. Kilgour, Henry Nelson, Ephraim Gaither, Robert Kilgour, John H. Payne, H. C. Gaither, and Alexander C. Hanson, who being sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, do declare and depose in the manner of form following,—to wit:

“That these deponents are some of the surviving persons who were devoted, or meant to be devoted, to the brutal and murderous fury of the mob in the late massacre in the jail at the City of Baltimore. That these deponents having seen the following statement submitted to them of that horrid atrocity, and the proceedings connected with it, do swear, that as far as their individual sufferings or particular opportunities of observation may enable them to testify, they believe the facts and circumstances detailed in the following statement to be truly and accurately stated—these deponents not intending hereby to preclude themselves from a further narrative or disclosure of such other circumstances and special injuries and sufferings as are within the particular knowledge of each of them respectively, or which they may have individually experienced and endured.

“Sworn to before

JOHN FLEMING.

“State of Maryland, Montgomery County, s. s. I hereby certify, that John Fleming, gent, before whom the foregoing affidavit appears to have been made, and whose name is thereto subscribed, was at the time a Justice of the Peace in and for the county aforesaid, duly commissioned and sworn. [*Seal.*] In testimony whereof, I have hereto subscribed my name, and affixed the public seal for Montgomery County, this 12th day of August, A. D. 1812.

“UPTON BEALL,

“Clerk of Montgomery County Court.

“On the night of the 22d of June, the entire printing apparatus of the *Federal Republican* was demolished by a mob in Baltimore, in the presence of the Mayor, the Judge of the Criminal Court, and several other magistrates and police-officers, whose authority was not exerted to save it and preserve the peace of the city. One of the editors (Mr. Wagner) narrowly escaped with his life, after being pursued by ruffians who avowed their fell purpose of assassination. Mr. Hanson, the other proprietor of the paper, heard of the depredations committed by the mob the evening after, and went to Baltimore the next day, accompanied by his friend Captain Richard J. Crabb, to make arrangements for re-establishing the paper. Finding it impossible to render any service, the laws being effectually silenced, and his friends unanimously urging his departure, he left town in a few hours, having first

walked the streets as usual, and made all the arrangements that could be made, in conjunction with his friends and agents, for retrieving the paper with all possible dispatch. Upon his return home to Rockville, Montgomery County, Mr. Hanson communicated to some of his most intimate friends his determination to recommence the paper in Baltimore, and declared he never would visit Baltimore again until he could go prepared to assert his rights and resist oppression. He was aware that the execution of this plan would be accompanied with much difficulty and danger, but his friends admired and approved it the more on that account, and volunteered to accompany him to Baltimore, to participate his dangers or successes, in maintaining the rights of person and property and defending the liberty of the press. They were in number: General James M. Lingan (murdered), General Harry Lee, Captain Richard J. Crabb, Dr. P. Warfield, Charles J. Kilgour, Otho Sprigg, Ephraim Gaither, and John Howard Payne. Several others were to have gone, but were prevented; and on the night of the attack, the party was joined by three other volunteers from the country, who were not fully apprised by Mr. Hanson of his determination, but received their information in confidence from others, Major Musgrove, Henry C. Gaither, and William Gaither. On the evening of the attack they were joined by about twenty gentlemen living in Baltimore, one or two only of whom were invited to the house by Mr. Hanson. When the office was first demolished, Mr. Wagner, one of the proprietors, lived in a house in Charles street. On that event he removed his family from the house, but did not relinquish it or remove his furniture. In this situation it remained until the 26th of July, when the paper having been re-established in Georgetown, and the proprietors having resolved to attempt its re-establishment in Baltimore, one of them, Mr. Hanson, came and occupied this house (having first taken a lease), as a place from which the distribution of the paper might be made. He was attended by the friends before mentioned, who were to remain as his guests until their business called them home. They thought it probable that an attempt would be made to prevent the distribution of the paper, and they might even be attacked in the house for that purpose; but they hoped, by the appearance of determined resistance, to deter the assailants from actual violence, till the civil authority should have time to interpose and prevent mischief. Should they be disappointed in this hope, and find themselves in danger from the unrestrained violence of a mob, they were resolved, and were prepared, to stand on the defensive, and to repel force by force. Reliance upon the civil authority they early perceived to be fruitless, for on application to the Mayor by the owner of the house, he peremptorily declined all interference, and left town, as it was understood, to prevent his repose from being disturbed. The civil authority refusing to interfere when applied to by Mr. White, the son, and Mr. Dennis Nowland,

the son-in-law of the owner of the house, there was nothing left but to resist the mob in the house; and while this resistance was made with a mildness and forbearance scarcely ever equalled, and which excited the wonder of the spectators, several messages were sent to Brigadier-General Stricker to disperse the mob and prevent the effusion of blood, which would otherwise be unavoidable. If it be objected that the scheme was rash or imprudent, all must admit *it was strictly and clearly lawful*. Mr. Hanson had an undoubted right to distribute the paper in Baltimore, from this or any other house in his occupation, and to defend his person and property by force in case they were assailed by unlawful violence and left unprotected by the civil authority.

“On Monday, the 27th of July, the distribution of the paper was commenced, and proceeded without molestation or tumult till evening. But soon after twilight, a mob collected before the house, and soon began to act in a very threatening and riotous manner. The gentlemen in the house, with great mildness, patience and forbearance, repeatedly advised and requested them to disperse, assuring them that the house was armed, and would be defended, and that the consequences of attacking would be dangerous. This however had no other effect than to increase the boldness and violence of the mob, as well as its numbers. A vigorous attack on the house was soon commenced. Stones were thrown in showers at the front windows, all of which were soon broken, and not only the glass, but the sashes and shutters were demolished, and an attempt was made to break down the street door, which was at length actually broken and burst open. All these acts of violence were accompanied by loud and reiterated declarations by the mob of a determination to force the house and expel or kill those who were engaged in its defence. The scenes continued for more than two hours, without the least interference of the Mayor, or any appearance of an intention to interpose. At length the persons thus threatened and assailed, finding that little hope remained of protection from the local authorities, and that forbearance, expostulation and entreaty served only on their part to increase the audacity of the mob, resolved to try the effect of intimidation. Orders were therefore given to fire from the windows of the second story over the heads of the mob, so as to frighten without hurting them. This was done. The mob was at first intimidated by this blank fire, but soon finding that no hurt was done by it, they returned and recommenced the attack with increased violence. The windows having been all before broken, and the front room on the lower floor abandoned, the mob prepared to enter by the door and take possession of the house. The gentlemen from within therefore prepared themselves for the worst, and resolved that when things should be pushed to extremities, they would make a serious fire on the assailants. Some gentlemen were stationed on the stairs in the entry, opposite the front door, and the entry itself was bar-

ricaded as well as could be done with chairs, tables, and other furniture. Other persons were posted at the windows in such a manner as best to command the approach to the doors. They renewed their warnings and entreaties to the mob, but with no other effect than before, and in this situation they remained until effectual resistance should become absolutely necessary. Still the civil authority did nothing, save the fruitless efforts of Judge Scott, who was ultimately obliged to leave the street. The military was equally supine or indifferent. It was now about eleven o'clock. The violence of the attack increased, and in a short time a part of the mob, with a Dr. Gale, their apparent leader and instigator (who had harangued them in the street), at their head, made an attempt to enter the passage and advance towards the stairs. Orders were now given to fire from the windows and staircase. By this fire Dr. Gale was killed, and carried off by his companions and followers. Several were wounded in the street. The mob fled in every direction, carrying with them the wounded and the body of Dr. Gale, but before they fled they fired frequently into the house, where the marks of their shot are to be seen, and a pistol aimed at the breast of General Lee flashed while he was expostulating with the mob. One of the defenders of the house (Ephraim Gaither) was wounded at the time of the fire from the street, but how, or with what has not been ascertained. He bled profusely, and had a convulsion in the morning while standing at his post upon duty. This was the time for the gentlemen in the house to make their escape. Could they have seen that their enterprize had become impracticable, they might have made good their retreat. But they judged otherwise. They thought rather of their rights than that of the prudence of a further effort to assert them, and resolved still to defend the house, indulging the hope too that no further violence would be attempted after this experience of its consequences, or that the civil authority would effectually interpose. The mob came very cautiously and almost by stealth in front of the house after the effectual fire. They still, however, remained in the street and increased their number gradually, a drum parading the streets to beat up recruits, and continued to throw stones in front and back of the house.

"Between two and three o'clock, the military having been ordered out, Major Barney appeared in the street at the head of a small party of cavalry. The mob again fled at his approach, crying out as they heard the tramping of horses, 'The troop is coming, the troop is coming.' Near the front of the house Major Barney halted and addressed them. On this they again returned. He told them he was their friend, *their personal and political friend*; that he was there to protect person and property, to prevent violence, 'to secure the party in the house,' and that those in the street must disperse. They then asked him by what authority he came. He answered by order of the Brigadier-General Stricker.

They demanded a sight of the order, which he consented to show them, and for that purpose went round the corner into an alley where they assembled round to see it. He said something in a low voice, on hearing which the mob gave three cheers. What did he then say to them? This can be answered only from conjecture and from what happened afterwards. Many of the gentlemen in the house, judging from subsequent events, believe that he communicated to the mob the plan of assassination, which was put into execution, and which they suppose to have been then already formed with his knowledge and participation. But this supposition would ascribe to that officer a degree of ferocious profligacy which ought not to be imputed to him or any other man without the clearest proof. The subjoined extract from the *Whig* explains Major Barney's conduct:

“ We regret that our committee have not, after so much pains and *promise*, stated some particulars minutely; particulars necessary to be known, we mean the circumstances of the *negotiation* (as it were) between Major Barney and the populace. They agreed to rest satisfied if the murderers should be carefully kept from escaping, and be surrendered into the hands of the civil authority; in other words, *be committed to jail for trial*. To the fulfilment of this was Major Barney pledged.’

“ His instructions were nevertheless for the safety and honor of the gentlemen in the house. There can be no question he had orders while he protected the house from further attack to secure the party in it, so as to prevent them from escaping, and to bring them to trial for the deaths which had taken place or were expected, and that he communicated this part of his orders to the mob. This supposition is favored by what he was heard to say on his first approach—that ‘he was there to take possession and secure the party in the house.’ And when the gentlemen, distrusting his views in consequence of what they had observed, demanded an explanation, he assured them that *he had no orders or instructions but such as were consistent with their safety and honor*, but he was obliged to talk otherwise to the mob to deceive and keep them quiet. The mob made no further attempt on the house, in front of which Major Barney and his cavalry remained constantly wrangling and talking with the mob, who soon prepared for a more effectual attack by bringing up a field-piece. With this they attempted to fire on the house, but were always prevented by Major Barney, who more than once mounted on the cannon, declaring that if they fired they should fire on him, that they would kill their own friends; all which trouble he might have saved himself, if he pleased, by remounting his horse and dispersing the mob which fled at his first approach. This state of things continued till about 6 o'clock A. M., when Mr. Johnson, the Mayor, arrived from the country, whither messengers had been despatched for him by those out of the house; and Brigadier-General Stricker,



who commands the militia of the town, appeared before the door and commenced a parley with the party within. Being admitted into the house, they represented to the party defending the irritation which prevailed in the town, the exasperation of the public mind, and the impossibility of maintaining defence against the force which would soon come in aid of the attack. The Mayor asked for and addressed Mr. Hanson with warmth and great agitation; spoke of a civil war, saying, *we are impressed with the belief that a civil war is inevitable, and I consider this a party-thing and the commencement of it.* He complained also of the Government's being implicated in the dispute between parties and the paper, and added, *such opposition must or will be noticed.* To all which Mr. Hanson replied that he would not enter into a political dispute with the Mayor; that he had a right to defend his house, which was his castle, and his person, and that he and his friends were competent to the protection of both; that it was the Mayor's duty to disperse the mob. The Mayor and General Stricker then declared their own inability to protect the party in the house while there, and proposed that they should surrender themselves into the hands of the civil authority, and be taken to the public jail as a *place of safety*, promising an effectual escort on the way, to be composed of Mr. Hanson's own friends, in town if he pleased, and also an effectual guard at the jail, till they could be released on bail.

"To this many of the party, particularly Mr. Hanson, strongly objected. He was indignant at the proposal to go to jail. 'To jail!' said he—'for what? For protecting my house and property against a mob who assailed both for three hours without being fired upon, when we could have killed numbers of them! You cannot protect us to jail, or after we are in jail!' Mr. Hanson then, after the Mayor and General went into the front room to converse with General Lee, exhorted his friend never to surrender, declaring that no reliance could be placed on the assurances of such men, who were his bitter enemies, and who, however willing they might be, were unable to afford effectual protection, as was proved by their inability to disperse the mob then assembled before the house. He repeated over and over, that if they surrendered they would all be sacrificed; and from his knowledge of the men they had to deal with, particularly John Montgomery, who had just before passed into the room, he expected they would all be given up to be massacred, either on the way to the jail or in the jail. Mr. Hanson then stated his objections to the Mayor and General Stricker, who in answer gave the most solemn assurances on their faith as officers and their honor as men to afford the promised protection or die in the attempt. General Stricker assured them on his honor that he would never quit them while there was danger, and if they were attacked he would rescue or fall with them. These assurances were repeated frequently with the most solemn asseverations and appeals to God. Mr. Hanson

having said something to his friends in regard to the house and furniture, a pledge was instantly given by the Mayor to leave a guard to defend both. General Lee and other gentlemen attempted to get better terms of capitulation, such as marching out with arms in their hands to assist in protecting themselves, and riding on their horses among the cavalry and in carriages. The Mayor and General went out to see if the mob would consent to any other terms. While gone Mr. Hanson made two propositions to different gentlemen of his party, the one to hold the Mayor and Brigadier-General as hostages for their safety, and the other *offering to give himself up to the mob, who would then be appeased*, repeating his belief that every man would be sacrificed if they surrendered. When the Mayor and General Stricker returned, they informed the party in the house that no other terms could be obtained from the mob than those first proposed, and urged their immediate acceptance, declaring that a delay of five minutes might be fatal. Mr. Hanson still vehemently opposed surrendering, and said he had nothing to say to the mob, but would negotiate only with the civil authority in order to prevent the effusion of blood, which he was as anxious to do as any one. General Lee, who had been chosen to command the party, was then sought for in the front room up stairs. He was of opinion that the proposition of the Mayor and General Stricker ought to be accepted, and endeavored to gain over Mr. Hanson to his opinion, by expressing the warmest confidence in their sincerity and honor, and their competency to afford full protection to and at the jail. General Lee probably saw that the defence was wholly desperate.

"The numbers in the house had diminished from about thirty to twenty, by sending out detachments for various purposes who could not return, and from other causes not now satisfactorily known. This remaining number was barely sufficient to man the essential stations. There were none to relieve them. The effects of fatigue and want of sleep began to be felt. Those of hunger and thirst must soon be added, for their stock of provisions and water was small, and a supply was impossible. To a military man of judgment and experience like General Lee, these circumstances would naturally appear in all their force. He saw the defence necessarily and rapidly becoming weaker, while there was reason to believe that the attacking force would greatly and rapidly augment. Being a soldier too himself, he could not doubt a soldier's honor, nor believe that Gen. Stricker, who had served like himself in the war of our Revolution, could abandon those who surrendered their arms on the faith of his word. Gen. Lee therefore gave his opinion early and strongly in favor of a surrender. Several others, no doubt from similar motives, and some in deference to his opinion, declared for the same course. But Mr. Hanson, more ardent because younger, smarting under wrongs unredressed, and flushed by the hope of gaining in the end a glorious victory, and less confiding

because better acquainted with the weakness, timidity and disposition of the persons on whom they were invited to rely, strongly and pertinaciously opposed this sentiment to the last, contending that if the defence was really impracticable, which he by no means believed, it was better to die there with the arms in their hands, than to surrender for the purpose of being led through the streets like malefactors, and in the end massacred by the mob, against which he insisted that no effectual protection would be afforded or ought to be expected. The opinion of Gen. Lee, however, finally prevailed, and the whole party, to the number of between twenty and thirty, surrendered themselves into the hands of the civil authority. An escort of horse and foot was provided by General Stricker, and they were conducted from the house to the jail. This took place between 8 and 9 o'clock in the morning.

“In going to the jail, they were to pass by a large pile of paving stones, which had been provided for paving the streets. While the negotiation for the surrender was going on, a plan was laid to massacre the party at this pile of stones, and a company from Fell's Point, headed by a Mr. Worrel, was to join the mob at that place for the purpose. The plan was to drive off or knock down the escort with the stones, and then beat the prisoners to death. But the pile of stones was passed a few minutes before the party from the Point arrived, and thus the scheme was frustrated, not without two of the gentlemen receiving severe blows with stones said to be aimed at Mr. Hanson. This important fact was related on the same day to a gentleman by one of the chiefs of the mob, who very coolly added: ‘It is only a short delay, for we shall take them out of the jail to-night and put them to death.’ This intention was publicly and frequently avowed in the course of the day, and express invitation to that effect was given in the principal Democratic paper of the city, and the preparations for carrying it into effect were openly made. A particular incident will show how well it was known, or how confidently expected. A youth of the name of McCubbin, a clerk in the counting-house of Hollins and McBlair, had opened the counting-house in the morning as usual, and after attending to his ordinary business, was led by curiosity or accident into the neighborhood of the jail at the moment when the party from the house entered it. Being with the crowd, he was hurried into the jail by mistake, and was actually locked up with the party. Messrs. Hollins and McBlair, finding his situation, and knowing what would probably happen at night, exerted themselves to the utmost, with some of their friends, to effect his release, which they effected a little before night with very great difficulty. Those gentlemen despairing, it must be presumed, of success, made no effort, as far as is known, to prevent the catastrophe. Some of their friends, however, and particularly Col. James A. Buchanan, exerted themselves to the utmost, as it is said and believed, but to no purpose. General Stricker and Mr. Johnson being informed of

the intended massacre, an order was obtained in the legal form to call out the military for the protection of the jail. This order was given to Gen. Stricker by Mr. Johnson, on the certificates and requisition of two magistrates. Gen. Stricker accordingly ordered out the fifth regiment (commanded by Col. Joseph Sterrett, a brave man, and to be relied on in all situations,) but directed expressly that they should be furnished *with blank cartridges only*. This part of the order might very well deter, and no doubt did deter many of the well-disposed militia from turning out. They might well suppose that the order might by some means become known to the mob, who far from being intimidated by the appearance of soldiers known to be unarmed, would naturally consider it, *as it was*, a pledge for their perfect impunity, and might probably slaughter the soldiers themselves. The general exasperation, moreover, which prevailed on account of the events of the morning, which, as always happens on such occasions, had been wholly misrepresented, and were almost universally misunderstood, was so high that great numbers of the militia and some entire companies, especially one of the cavalry, absolutely refused to turn out; many, it may be supposed, were prevented by their fears. Yet notwithstanding all these unfavorable circumstances a number did appear, which is stated by some to have been sixty, and by others not more than thirty. Col. Sterrett was at the head of this fragment of his regiment; Col. Samuel Sterrett, who commands one of the companies, was also at his post; so was Major Richard K. Heath. The other officers who appeared are not recollected. The Brigadier-General himself, after his solemn pledge of his word and honor as an officer and a man in the presence of God, did not appear. He was not seen with the troops, and if seen in the streets at all, it was in his common dress with a rattan in his hand. *He nowhere showed himself as the commander of the militia*, made no call in person on the troops or the citizens to rally around him, but contented himself with barely doing what was required of him, according to the strict letter, by ordering out a part of the militia, and rendered that order futile and nugatory, or worse, by combining it with an order to come without effective arms. This part of his order was however disobeyed by many, if not all of the militia who came out: resolved not to be exposed to massacre by this unaccountable conduct of their general, they furnished themselves as well as they could with ball-cartridges.

“In the afternoon, while the troops were ordered out, and while they were assembling, Mr. Johnson, Mayor, went to the jail, accompanied by Mr. Hargrove, register of the city, and together with Gen. Stricker, Judge Job Smith, Mr. Wilson, magistrate, Mr. Calhoun, brigade inspector, visited the gentlemen in the jail, to inform them of the efforts that were making, and would be made for their protection. They renewed their solemn assurances of protection, and told the party to rest satisfied, as the military would.

be out in a very short time, when there would be no danger of an attack upon the jail. A butcher by the name of Mumma, and two others, understood to be prominent in the mob, entered the room in company with the Mayor and remained after him. While the interview between the Mayor, General, &c., and the gentlemen continued, this butcher was employed in observing and most attentively remarking their countenances and their dress. As many of them were strangers in Baltimore, his object no doubt was to enable himself to identify them, and point them out to his associates, when the massacre should commence. This very butcher did stand at the first iron grate and knock down the gentlemen as they were brought out. It was by him, so stationed, that Mr. Hanson was first recognized and shockingly beaten. In the course of the afternoon the gentlemen were apprised from various quarters of the fate which awaited them at night, and particularly a gentleman of the Democratic party (who is nevertheless a man of honor, courage and humanity), after struggling in vain to provide means of protection, or to avert the danger, informed them of all they had to expect.

“The door of the room in which they were confined was very strong; composed of thick iron bars fastened together, so as to make a grate, it enabled them to see what was done on the outside, while if kept locked, it was capable of affording them a very considerable defence. That they might make the most of this feeble resource, in the apprehended absence of all others, they sent for the turnkey, and requested him to lock the door and give them the key. This he promised, but did not perform. They sent to him again and reminded him of his promise, which he repeated and again neglected. They saw no more of him until the slaughter commenced.

“The militia having assembled in front of their Colonel’s quarters in Gay street, at a very considerable distance from the jail, the General, instead of putting himself at their head, endeavoring to increase their numbers and leading them to the jail, left them standing in Gay street; and hearing that the mob had assembled at the jail in great numbers, he and the Mayor, accompanied by John Montgomery, Attorney-General of the State, went to them a little before sunset to expostulate with them on the impropriety of their conduct and persuade them to disperse. The object which the mob then thought proper to avow openly, was to prevent the gentlemen from being admitted to bail. An assurance being given to them by the Attorney-General and the Judge that bail should not be received before next day, they are said to have declared themselves satisfied and to have promised to disperse. Some of them, no doubt, made such a declaration and promise, with what intentions will soon appear. General Stricker and Mr. Johnson, Mayor, thought fit to be satisfied with these assurances. Some of their friends, supposed to be men of influence among the mob, are

said to have obtained similar assurances, and to have been equally satisfied. Be that as it may, the Brigadier-General, the Mayor of the city, and the Attorney-General of the State left the jail with the mob still assembled before it, and went into the city proclaiming that everything was settled and all danger at an end. On this ground Gen. Stricker dismissed a body of militia under Major Heath, which he met on his way from the jail, notwithstanding the advice and remonstrance of Major Heath, who exhorted them to go once more to the jail before they were dismissed and see whether all was safe. From Major Heath he proceeded to Colonel Sterrett, and ordered him to dismiss the party which was under arms in Gay street, an order which Mr. Sterrett obeyed with a heavy heart. Gen. Stricker then proceeded through the town to his own house, which is in a part still more distant from the jail, and on his way he proclaimed that everything was settled, all danger over, and no further need of any protecting force. By this means he dispersed a number of citizens who had assembled with a view of giving their aid. When he reached his own house he shut himself up and ordered himself to be denied, or was out of the way.

“The dismissal of the military was instantly made known to the mob at the jail by their associates stationed for that purpose, and they regarded it, as was natural, as the signal for attack. They immediately made a furious attack on the outward doors of the jail, which being observed by a gentleman who happened at that moment to pass on horseback, he rode full speed to Gen. Stricker's house, to give him the information. He was told that Gen. Stricker was not at home. Inquiring where he was, and expressing a strong desire to see him, in order to give him the information, the gentleman was told that ‘Gen. Stricker could not be seen; and that if he could, it would be unavailing, for he had already done all he could or would do.’ The gentleman then went in quest of the Mayor, who fearing or being informed of what happened, had gone to the jail with two or three men supposed to have influence with the mob, whom he had engaged to assist him. With them he attempted to prevent the doors from being forced open; but his attempts were fruitless, and at length his assistants, fearing for his safety and their own, almost forced him away. The attack then proceeded without further hindrance or fear of interruption; and when the violence of the attack upon the outward door to the east increased, a voice from within was heard saying, ‘Come round to the other door!’—which they were seen to do by some of the gentlemen in prison. There can be no doubt that it was in the power of Gen. Stricker to prevent or easily repel this attack. Had he put on his uniform, mounted on horseback, put himself at the head of such of the military as had assembled, called for more force, exhorted the citizens to volunteer, and marched to the jail with all the force which he could thus collect—had he, as his duty and plighted honor required, taken post at or in the jail, even with the small

body of militia which had assembled, the mob would unquestionably have been deterred or repulsed. But he was blind to all such considerations, and left the mob to their course by dismissing the military, and infusing a false and fatal security into the citizens. But above all, after the massacre, when it was discovered that some of the persons thrown into the pile of the supposed slain were not quite dead, and might be restored, intelligence of the fact was carried to town. Upon receiving the information, a distinguished gentleman went to Gen. Stricker's house and had him called out of bed. He communicated to the General the joyful tidings, and added, 'the physicians will go out to preserve all they can, if you will furnish a guard or go with them.' The General said he was fatigued, had lost his rest the night before, and it was an *improbable tale that any of the prisoners were alive*. The gentleman urged and remonstrated, offering to bring him a horse immediately, but the General flatly declined, and returned to his bed to find repose. God of Heaven! did he sleep?—he 'who hath murdered sleep!' slaughtered honor, patriotism and courage, ensnared by treachery; betrayed the brave, and handed them over to the executioner, to be tortured in a manner until now unknown in the annals of all time, to satiate the bloody appetites of cannibals and tigers in human form. Have not ages of wickedness and barbarity and guilt been crowded into days? An all-wise and good Providence will avenge these horrid enormities.

"The mob gained possession of the principal entrance into the prison, but there were still two very strong doors to be forced before they could reach the party within. One of these doors detained them more than a quarter of an hour. Whether it was finally forced or unlocked is not known. When they reached the last door, after a few slight blows it was unlocked. Bentley, the jailor, was the first man who entered the room, to the best of these deponents' recollection, and was instantly followed by the mob; he was probably compelled to unlock the door. From this it appears that a very small military guard posted in the first entry of the jail, especially with the Brigadier-General and the Mayor at their head, would have been a sufficient protection. This was the post in which the plighted faith and honor of Gen. Stricker should have placed him; but his pledge was forgotten or neglected, and the post was left wholly unguarded.

"When the victims saw the danger approach nearer and nearer they calmly prepared for their fate, but resolved to make every possible effort for effecting their escape. They had three or four pistols among them, and one or two dirks. It was proposed as soon as the last door should be forced they should shoot as many of the assailants with these pistols, for which there was no second charge, as possible. Mr. Hanson dissuaded from this course, saying it would be of no avail to kill one or two of the mob, and would only increase their fury and render escape more

difficult. He strongly recommended that they should all rush among the mob, put out all the lights, create as much confusion as possible, and by that means many would escape. As for himself, he would be recognized; but every man must do the best to save himself. All seemed at once to embrace the plan; but when the mob were about entering the last door, Mr. Murray and Mr. Thompson presented their pistols, the former saying very familiarly, 'My lads, you had better retire, I can shoot either of you.' It was replied, 'I can kill you,' by the mob. Murray rejoined, 'I can kill any one of you first.' Mr. Thompson was also disposed to fire, but General Lee and Mr. Hanson urged to the contrary, and the mob coming in, were rushed upon, and the confusion commenced.

"The plan proposed by Mr. Hanson availed many of his friends, who escaped almost, and some entirely, unhurt, to the number of nine or ten, who made their way through the crowd in the confusion that ensued. But it was useless to himself, because he was known to *Mumma* the butcher, who recognized and knocked him down after he had made good his way to the lobby, as it is called, or hall of the jail. He was then dreadfully beaten, trampled on, and pitched for dead down the high flight of stairs in front of the jail. The purpose for which *Mumma* came into the prison room in the evening now appeared. He was posted at the door to mark the victims as they came out, and designated them for slaughter by giving each a blow or two, which was the signal for his associates, who proceeded to finish what he had begun. The fate of Mr. Hanson befel General Lee, General Lingan, Mr. Hall, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Kilgour, Major Musgrove, Dr. P. Warfield, and Mr. Wm. Gaither, all of whom were thrown down the steps of the jail, where they lay in a heap nearly three hours.

"During this whole time the mob continued to torture their mangled bodies, by beating first one and then the other, sticking pen-knives into their faces and hands, and opening their eyes and dropping hot candle-grease into them, &c. Mr. Murray, Mr. Thompson and Mr. Winchester were carried in a different direction and not thrown into the heap of supposed slain. Major Musgrove was the last who remained in the prison room when the mob broke in. While the slaughter of his friends was going on in the passage in his view, he calmly walked about the room waiting for a fate which he saw no possibility of averting. At length one of the assassins came and called him out. He went, and was attacked in the entry, knocked down and beaten till he was supposed by the butchers to be dead. Some of the victims were rendered wholly insensible by the first blows which they received. Others who preserved their senses and recollection, resolved to feign death, in hopes of thus escaping farther injury. The brave Gen. Lingan lost his life by his endeavors to save it. He so much mistook the character of the monsters as to suppose them capable of some feelings of humanity. He reminded them that he had fought for their



liberties throughout the Revolutionary war, that he was old and infirm, and that he had a large and helpless family dependent on him for support. These remarks served only to attract their attention to him and to inform them that he was still alive. Every supplication was answered by fresh insults and blows. At length, while he was still endeavoring to speak and to stretch out his hands for mercy, one of the assassins stamped upon his breast, struck him many blows in rapid succession, crying out, '*the damned old rascal is hardest dying of all of them,*' and repeating the opprobrious epithet of *Tory!* These blows put an end to his torment and his life. In a few minutes after his removal into jail he expired without a groan. His name will be immortal as his soul. While Gen. Lee's mangled body lay exposed upon the bare earth, one of the monsters attempted to cut off his nose, but missed his aim, though he thereby gave him a bad wound in the nose. Either the same person or another attempted to thrust a knife into the eye of Gen. Lee, who had again raised himself up. The knife glanced on the cheek-bone, and the General being immediately by the side of Mr. Hanson, fell with his head upon his breast, where he lay for some minutes, when he was kicked or knocked off. A quantity of his blood was left on Mr. Hanson's breast, on observing which one of the mob shortly afterwards exclaimed exultingly, 'See Hanson's brains on his breast!'

"During these horrid scenes, several of the gentlemen, Mr. Nelson, Dr. Warfield, Mr. Kilgour, Mr. J. E. Hall, and Mr. Hanson, perfectly retained their senses. They sustained without betraying any signs of life, or gratifying their butchers with a groan or murmur, all the tortures that were inflicted on them. They heard without showing any emotion, the deliberations of the assassins about the manner of disposing of their bodies. At one time it was proposed to throw them all into the sink of the jail. Others thought it best to dig a hole and bury them all together immediately. Some advised that they should be thrown into Jones Falls, a stream which runs in front of the jail. Some that they should be castrated. Others again were for tarring and feathering them, and directed a cart to be brought for that purpose to carry them about town. Others insisted upon cutting all their throats upon the spot, to make sure of them. And lastly, it was resolved to hang them next morning and have them dissected. Pointing to Hanson, and jobbing him severely with a stick on the privates, one exclaimed, 'this fellow shall be dissected.' Being particularly desirous of insulting and mangling the body of Mr. Hanson, but finding great difficulty in identifying it, they at length thought of examining his sleeve-buttons, supposing they should there find the initials of his name. It was insisted by some one present that he knew Hanson well, and it was not him but *Hoffman*. Before they seemed to have settled the dispute, their attention was attracted to some other object.

"Dr. Hall, personally unknown to all but one, it is believed, of the sufferers, was instrumental in rescuing them from the mob, which he did by a stratagem which will endear him to all good men and brighten his course through life. He, with the aid of others not now known, induced the mob to place the supposed dead bodies under his care until morning, and he conveyed them into the jail to the room whence they were first taken. There he was assisted by Drs. Birkhead, Smith, Owen, and a gentleman who assumed the name of Dr. Page, but is better known by the title of the 'Boston Beauty,' and was extremely active in assisting Dr. Hall to administer drinks and opiates. Having examined their wounds, some of the doctors went to town privately for carriages to carry off the bodies. By management they had induced nearly all the mob to retire till morning. Some of them no doubt being fatigued, retired to rest and refresh themselves. A large part followed Mr. Thompson, who had been carried off in the manner stated in his narrative. Some perhaps felt sated with the cruelties already committed, and withdrew. The remainder were in a measure exhausted, and the two Democratic physicians, Drs. Hall and Owen, had the address ultimately to prevail on all of them to leave the jail for the present. While the physicians were gone for carriages, Mr. Hanson proposed to Drs. Hall and Owen to convey him if possible to Mr. Murray's, about three miles off, where his family was on a visit. He said it was likely he might live until morning, when if he remained in jail he would be again taken by the mob. He was told carriages would soon be at the jail, but upon discovering impatience, Dr. Owen went out to see if he could be safely carried off at once. When he returned, Bentley came with him, and Mr. H. again urged his removal, upon which Bentley objected, saying that he had no right to permit the prisoners to go away, as they were in custody. He was answered by Mr. H. that the jail being broken open and the prisoners rescued by the mob and brought back for security, without being recommitted, he could not be blamed. Bentley replied 'very well, do as you please.' A person then presented himself and offered to carry Mr. H. off, who fell and fainted several times upon attempting to rise. Dr. Owen recommended and gave him a glass of brandy, which he took, and was quickly invigorated, and enabled with the aid of his deliverer to stand up and walk. He asked to be carried to Gen. Lingan, over whose dead body he stood for a moment, and was hurried off. When he got to the outward jail door he was taken on the back of his deliverer, who ran with him to the Falls, conveyed him over, and helped him over into a small garden opposite, where he was told to lie until called for. After lying some time wrapped up in a blanket he heard a wrangle at the jail, and concluded it was the best time to crawl away as well as he could, which he did to a place of safety, whence he was conveyed in the morning at daylight some distance from town. Mr. Nelson and Mr. J. E. Hall left the jail at the same time Mr.

Hanson did. The former, though among the most injured, found his way to a secure retreat within a few hundred yards of Mr. H., and was taken in a cart covered with hay to the same house in the country, where the wounds of both of them were dressed, and they were taken to Anne Arundel county without delay. Mr. Hall got unassisted to the house of a humane gentleman up the Falls, near the jail. This gentleman dressed his wounds, put him to bed, and early in the morning sent him further into the country. The names of all the others who escaped in this manner he is ignorant, but Mr. Murray was carried by some persons and laid on the ground by the Falls. They left him there, probably supposing he was dead, and all went away but one. That person, after all the rest were gone, approached Mr. Murray and laid his hand upon him. He took the hand of the man and pressed it. He started with surprise and dread at feeling his hand pressed by what he had supposed to be a corpse. Murray then begged his assistance to escape, which he promised, adding that he was one of the mob, but thought 'there should be fair play.' He then assisted Murray to rise, and conducted him to a neighboring hovel, whence at Murray's request he went into town to inform his friends where he was and conduct them to the place. This office he faithfully and successfully performed, though so much intoxicated as to be hardly able to walk. Murray's friends thus conducted, came and removed him to a place of safety.

"Gen. Lee was taken to the hospital, where his wounds were dressed by the physician, and he received every assistance of which his deplorable and mangled situation admitted. Hence he was next day conveyed to the country, and arrived at Little York, where he is said to be doing well. Major Musgrove, it is understood, was also taken to the hospital, and carried the next day four miles above Ellicott's Mills, on the Montgomery road. A mortification having taken place in some of his wounds after he reached home, his life was for a time despaired of; but the skill and attention of Dr. Charles A. Warfield, Dr. Matthews and Dr. Allen Thomas, have preserved this gallant officer, and he is now out of danger.

"Dr. Peregrine Warfield, Mr. Charles J. Kilgour and Mr. William Gaither, all of them much mangled, were conveyed, without molestation, in a hack brought by the physicians about four o'clock in the morning, to Ellicott's Mills, and thence to the house of the father of Dr. P. W., about twenty-four miles from town. They are all recovering.

"It would remain now to relate the last act of this horrible and bloody tragedy, which includes the fate of Mr. Thompson, now safe and recovering in Little York, Pennsylvania. He was the unhappy victim reserved, for what special cause is unknown, by the butchers for their infernal pastime. His narrative, already before the public, saves us the pain of describing the unheard-of tortures which untamed ferocity delighted to inflict on him. His prayers to put

an end to his sufferings by death were inhumanly rejected as often as repeated.

"Such are the particulars of this atrocious and bloody affair which it has hitherto been possible to collect in an authentic shape, and a parallel to which is scarcely to be found in the annals of revolutionary France, even after the actors in similar scenes there had become hardened by custom and familiar to deeds of horror, cruelty and crime. The bloodhounds of republican France massacred by thousands those obnoxious to their vengeance, but they dispatched their victims quickly, rarely ever resorting to such lingering tortures as the exclusive republicans of this boasted land of liberty and happiness have the credit of inventing. It is proposed, as soon as practicable, to obtain from each of the gentlemen a separate statement on oath of what he suffered himself, and of all that passed within his observation. Meantime, the above statement must receive universal credit, every material circumstance being embraced in the introductory affidavit. The intended statements will be published in order to give a fuller view of these horrible scenes. While they hold up to merited detestation those who, by their active co-operation, connivance, or their dastardly and treacherous supineness, contributed to produce the catastrophe, they will serve as a beacon to warn the civil and military authority of other places of the danger of temporising with the most ferocious, ruthless and bloody of all monsters, a mob; while they teach an instructive lesson to the honest, but deluded citizen, seduced by the syren charms of democracy. The persons named in the above affidavit have read with mingled regret and indignation the partial, mutilated and unjust report of the local authorities in Baltimore, while they have seen annexed to it with grief and amazement the signatures of some worthy and hitherto firm and independent citizens. Understanding that the justification made for the barbarous cruelties which treachery and black malignity procured to be inflicted upon them, is that an extensive conspiracy was formed to murder or otherwise molest the citizens of Baltimore, the above named do, therefore, solemnly swear that no such conspiracy or association even was ever formed, but merely a determination entered into by less than a dozen gentlemen in the country to protect the person and property of Mr. Hanson, and defend the liberty of the press with their lives if necessary. This determination remains unaltered. The letters of Col. Lynn, whose advice was volunteered, John Hanson Thomas and Mr. Taney, have been disingenuously perverted to an unjust and infamous purpose.

"Rockville, August 12th, 1812."

"Narrative of John Thompson, one of the persons intended to be massacred with General Lingan and others, in the jail of Baltimore, on Tuesday, the 28th of July, 1812:

"On Monday, the 27th of July last, I was invited by Mr. Han-

son to his house, and in the evening about twilight I went there, and found from 15 to 16 gentlemen in his house, most of them known to me. I was told that an attack upon the house was threatened that night, which they had made preparations to resist and defeat. I saw some muskets, pistols, and swords in the house, for the purpose of defence. After being there some time, I understood an arrangement had been made, that in case of an attack, the direction of the defence was appointed to Gen. Lee. About 8 o'clock, a number of persons were collecting at the front of the house, who were very noisy, and began to throw stones at the windows, and they broke several of them. The house was in front completely closed, the door and inside window-shutters being shut, till the stones broke the glass and burst open the shutters. Mr. Hanson spoke from the second story to the mob, and told them if they did not desist they would fire upon them, and he warned the spectators to go away. Gen. Lee in the house told them not to fire unless it should be absolutely necessary and the doors were forced. The mob continued to increase and to throw stones more violently, which broke the windows of the first and second stories. Gen. Lee directed a volley to be fired from the upper story over the heads of the people in the street, to frighten them away without injuring them. This was executed and nobody was hurt. The mob huzzahed, were still more violent, and broke open the lower door. They were then fired upon, and a man fell at the door upon the inside thereof, who was immediately taken up and removed by some of the mob. This must have happened about 10 o'clock, or after. Judge Scott made his appearance and came into the house, the door having remained open after it was broken. He requested us to leave the house. He was told we should do no such thing; that we could not be secure unless the civil authority interfered; that we were lawfully employed with Mr. Hanson in protecting him and his house against violence, and whenever the mob would disperse or the civil authority interfere, we would retire to our homes, and not before.

“During the night we continued to defend ourselves, and never fired but after some new and violent attack. I believe it probable several were wounded. The mob during the night retired and gathered again, and attempted some fresh damage. Just about, or before daylight, the mob brought a field-piece, which was planted near the house and in front of it, but was prevented from being discharged by the arrival of Capt. Barney's troop of horse, and six of them being dismounted, took possession of the front room on the first floor, and of the back yard. Hanson and his friends occupied the same places which they had done during the night. So things remained, until Edward Johnson the Mayor, General Stricker, John Montgomery the Attorney-General, James Calhoun, Lemuel Taylor, and several others, arrived and proposed that we should leave the house. We answered we had no objections to leave the house,

provided the mob would retire, or we could get home with safety. The Mayor said the mob could not be dispersed, nor would they be satisfied without we went to jail, and that we should be protected from them in going to jail, and while in it. To this proposal most of us expressly objected. Gen. Lee principally carried on the conversation on our part with the Mayor and Gen. Stricker. The Mayor, Gen. Stricker, and Attorney-General severally declared and assured us, that we should be protected as well in going to the jail as in it, and the Mayor pledged his life and his honor that we should be safe, and that he would die with us should we be hurt. Gen. Stricker expressed himself in similar terms. Also Montgomery, Taylor, Calhoun, and their companions gave us assurance of safety if we went to jail. After these assurances, and finding the civil authority would not make any exertion to disperse the mob, we consented, with the advice of Gen. Lee, to deliver ourselves up to the civil authority. The Mayor declared his opinion that we would not be safe in the jail without a guard, and he and Gen. Stricker promised there should be one.

"About 8 or 9 o'clock on Tuesday forenoon we left the house, and went under the care and custody of the Mayor who preceded us, and we were placed between two lines of infantry, consisting, as it appeared, of about 50 militia: about 20 dragoons mounted advanced before us to the jail. Gen. Stricker marched on foot with the infantry, and an immense concourse of people were in the streets, some of whom went along, and were abused in the most opprobrious language. Some stones were thrown with violence at us: one struck Mr. Kilgour and cut him badly in the forehead, and another struck Mr. Bigelow and nearly knocked him down. The distance from Hanson's house to the jail was about one mile. At our arrival at the jail-door, and as we entered it, several of us were struck by some of the mob whom we found there. Being delivered into the custody of John H. Bentley, the jailer, some time in the forenoon, we were put in a room in the common criminal department, where we remained the rest of the day. The dragoons and infantry left the jail soon after we were placed in it, and they did not return, nor was there any military guard afterwards. In the afternoon the Mayor came to us in the jail and assured us that there should be a guard, and that preparations were making to send one. He told us he would lose his own life before we should be hurt. Gen. Stricker was also at the jail, outside of it. The Mayor having been with us about 20 minutes, went away, leaving us in the belief that there would be a guard of armed militia sent to protect us in the jail. During the afternoon we were told several times by persons admitted to see us, that the militia were called out and assembling.

"Late in the afternoon two butchers, one named Mumma and the other Maxwell, came into our room; the former having a key in his hand. Mumma asked the names of several of the prisoners

—I told him. Mr. Hoffman said he wondered Mr. Bentley should suffer so many men to come into their room who had no business there. Mumma answered that he came there on Mr. Bentley's business. They were personally known to me and some of my fellow-prisoners. We suspected their intentions were not good, and I inquired of Mr. Bentley if Mumma was a friend of his. Bentley answered 'he pretends to be so.' I replied, 'you ought to know him well before you trust the key of our room in his hands,' and I proposed that he should lock the door and give me the key through the grate. On the inside the door cannot be unlocked, and there was the outer door locked. Bentley refused, saying, 'I cannot do so, as you are a prisoner under my care.' The door was immediately locked by somebody, and the mob very soon began to assemble from various quarters, but no troops were arriving. This excited much alarm in our room, it being after sunset, and we apprehended we were to be sacrificed.

"About dark the back door of the jail was beset by the mob, who entered it without breaking it by force. By whom it was opened I do not know but by hearsay. They began to break down the wood and iron gratings in the passage leading to our room, which took them at least three-quarters of an hour. They had the light of torches. The grating of our room was opened instantly without any exertion, which makes me believe it was opened by some one having the key, and I believe either by Mumma or Maxwell. The first person I recognized at the grating was Henry Keating, who keeps a printing-office, and him I should have killed with my pistols but for Gen. Lee, who laid hold of my arm and begged me not to fire, and also prevented Mr. Murray from firing. It had been agreed that Mr. Murray and myself, being the strongest men, should first rush out and make the best of our way, and every person was to escape as he could. Some of the mob rushed into the room, and Mr. Murray and myself rushed out, both of us armed — I had a pistol in each hand, and he a dirk and pistol. We made our way through the passage and hall without injury till I was at the front outer door, when I was struck on the back of my head with a heavy club by some man I had passed, which threw me forward from the head of the steps, and I fell headlong down about twelve feet. There I saw a gang of ruffians armed with clubs, ready to destroy whomsoever should pass down the steps, and six or seven of them instantly assaulted me while down, and beat me about the head until I was unable to rise. Some of them dragged me twenty or thirty yards while others were beating me with clubs. They then tried to make me stand on my feet, and looking round I perceived Lemuel Taylor, and I called upon him to prevent those men from taking my life. He told the men to desist, and said they had beat me enough, and begged them not to take my life. They said they would kill me. He again repeated that I was beat enough, and desired that

I should be let alone, and he would be security for my forthcoming in the morning. They disregarded what he had said. They dragged me along, and it was proposed to tar and feather me, and as I went along they continued to strike me with sticks and clubs. One fellow struck at me with an axe, who missed me. When they had dragged me a considerable distance, and into Old Town, they met with a cart and put me into it, and dragged it along themselves to a place where they got tar. I had left my coat in the jail, and they tore my shirt and other clothing, and put the tar on my bare body, upon which they put feathers. They drew me along in the cart in this condition, and calling me traitor and Tory and other scandalous names, they did not cease to beat me with clubs and cut me with old rusty swords. I received upon my head, arms, sides, thighs, and back upwards of eighteen cuts of the sword. On my head one cut was very deep, besides which my head was broken in more than twelve places by other instruments, such as sticks and clubs. I received a few blows in my face, and very many severe bruises on different parts of my body. My eyes were attempted to be gouged, and preserved by means of the tar and feathers, though they were much injured.

"About the same time as I was lying in the cart, a fellow struck both of my legs with a bar of iron, swearing, damn my eyes, 'I will break your legs.' I drew my legs up, and he was led to think and to say he had broke them. Shortly after I received a blow with a club across my eyes, upon which I lay as if dead, supposing it would stop their further beating me. Remaining so for some time, I was struck upon my thighs, which I bore as if dead. A villain said he would see if I was dead, and he stuck a pin into my body twice, at which time I did not flinch, but I still remained senseless as if dead. Another said he would show if I was dead; he pulled a handful of tar and feathers, and set fire to it, and stuck it on my back, which put into a blaze what was on my back. I turned over suddenly and rolled upon the flame, which put it out before it reached too great a height, but I was burnt in several parts. I then raised upon my knees and addressed them: 'For God's sake be not worse than savages; if you want my life, take it by shooting or stabbing.' Often I begged them to put an end to it. Upon this one said, 'don't burn him;' another said, 'we will hang him.' One in the shafts of the cart turned round and said to me, 'if you will tell the names of all in the house, and all you know about it, we will save your life.' Believing all the damage was done which could be done by them, I did not hesitate to say I would. They took me out of the cart upon the causeway at Fell's Point, and carried me to the Bull's Head tavern. There I gave them the names of all the persons in the house (most of them already known to them,) which they took in writing, and the reason of our being in the house was to defend Mr. Hanson and his house against violence with which he had been threatened. They detained me



about an hour at this tavern, and offered me some whiskey, of which I took several glasses, being extremely thirsty and weak from the loss of blood. They then made me walk with several persons on each side upholding me, towards the watch-house, where they said I should be kept till the morning, and that I should swear to what I had said before a magistrate by 9 o'clock, or if I did not they would hang me.

"On my way I was unable to proceed, and stopped twice to rest. When I first stopped, some of them said they had got all they could out of me and they would now hang me. I rose and went on, and some who were against hanging me followed, and I was obliged by weakness to stop again, when it was proposed again to hang me; and one person said they would cut off my head and stick it on a pole. The vote was taken and carried for hanging me, but some said they should not hang me, that my life had been promised upon condition of disclosing what I knew, and that the information I might give them would be of use to them. I was then moved to the watch-house, and delivered to the captain of the watch about two o'clock in the morning, who was told they held him responsible for my body at 9 o'clock. I laid myself on the floor, a doctor was sent for by the captain of the watch, who came, and having removed the tar and feathers, sewed up the wounds on my head and dressed them. Between 9 and 10 o'clock the mob was gathered at the watch-house, and some were for hanging me, saying that I had not sworn to what I had told them before a magistrate before 9 o'clock, as had been stipulated, and one of them said the rope was ready. I observed it was not my fault, that I was not able to go to a magistrate, and that I was ready to swear to it if they would bring one. They then brought a magistrate of the name of Galt, who took my affidavit, in which was stated the names of the persons in the house, the causes of their meeting, and the name of the person under whom they were acting in the house. It was read aloud, and at this period the Mayor, Lemuel Taylor and some others arrived, who said they would take me to the hospital out of the hands of these men. Mr. Taylor said he had no idea of seeing me alive. The doctor had lent me a shirt, and I was now provided with a pair of trowsers. The Mayor sent for a carriage, but the mob said I should not ride in it, that a cart was good enough for me, and a cart was brought, into which I was placed,—stretched out in the cart and exposed to a hot sun!

"About 11 o'clock I was carried to the hospital, the distance of a mile, the Mayor accompanying me, amidst the noise of a great concourse of people. There I heard the groans of Gen. Lee, in a room adjoining who had been said to be dead. After the crowd had dispersed, some of my friends, who did not think me safe, sent me a carriage, into which I was put without losing a minute, and Gen. Lee was put into the same carriage. We were hurried away into the country, in our wounded, bruised and mangled con-

dition. We arrived at Yorktown, Pa., on Saturday evening, the first of August, where we received the humane and friendly sympathies and attentions of the inhabitants, and the medical aid of two gentlemen of the faculty.

"Possessed of a strong constitution and in the prime of life, I cherish the hope that I shall survive all the bruises and wounds which have been so cruelly and maliciously inflicted by a wicked and lawless mob, and that I shall be again restored to the full use and enjoyment of my bodily powers.

"Given under my hand this 6th of August, 1812.

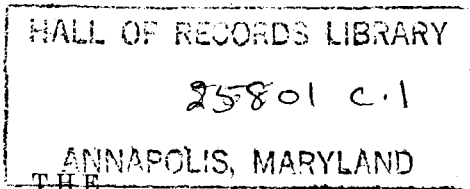
"JOHN THOMPSON."

Gen. James Macubbin Lingan was a native of Maryland, descended from a respectable family, and was brought up in a store in Georgetown. At the commencement of the American Revolution he obtained a commission in the army—was at the battle of Long Island, where the Maryland Line suffered so severely, and was one of those spared to aid in the defence of York Island. He escaped the balls of the Hessians who drove in the advanced posts of Fort Washington, and became a prisoner when that fortress surrendered, and partook of the sufferings which followed. When the new constitution went into operation he was appointed collector of the port of Georgetown by Washington, the friend of the patriot and soldier. Gen. Lingan was one of the most upright of men, and it may justly be said he knew no guile. He was beloved by his neighbors, and respected by all who knew him. In regard to personal courage he appeared to know no fear. This was evinced in the hour of his death. After having received the fatal blow, he reached out his hand to one of his companions, saying, "Farewell, I am a dying man, make your escape—return home and take care there"—no doubt referring to his wife and fatherless children, who, it is said, he left in destitute circumstances. On Tuesday, the first of September, funeral honors were paid to the memory of General Lingan in Georgetown. So numerous were the mourners, that it was found necessary to substitute for a church which had been originally selected, a shady eminence in the neighborhood. The procession was composed of clergymen of different denominations, several companies of soldiers, a band of Revolutionary heroes, then followed strangers of distinction, and an immense number of citizens from the counties of Montgomery, Baltimore, Frederick, Charles, Prince George's, St. Mary's, and from the cities of Georgetown, Washington, and Alexandria. The oration of George W. Parke Custus, the orator of the day, was extemporaneous, and riveted the attention of the audience; the solemn stillness which reigned was only interrupted by sighs and tears. We quote the following from his address: "O Maryland! would that the waters of thy Chesapeake could wash this foul stain from thy character! O Maryland! would that the recording angel who carries thy

black deed to heaven's chancery on high, could drop a tear upon it and blot it out forever! But no! A voice cries from the tomb of the brave. It rises to the God of nature and humanity, and demands a vengeance on the murderer!"

Major Henry Lee commanded the party. Light Horse Harry Lee, at the early age of nineteen, was devoted to liberty's battles. Greene considered him as a man nature had formed for war, and his achievements as commander of the Partisan Corps in the Southern army were eminent and deserving. Since the Revolution he filled high civil and military stations. He distinguished himself as the Governor of the State of Virginia, and as a member of the National Legislature. He stated it to be "the duty of the historian and the sages of all ages to let no occasion pass of commemorating this illustrious man—Washington." That Lee was a man of letters, a scholar who had ripened under a truly classical sun, we have only to turn to his work on the Southern War, where he was indeed the *magna pars fui* of all which he relates—a work which well deserves to be ranked with the commentaries of the famed master of the Roman world, who, like our Lee, was equally renowned with the pen as the sword. But there is a line—a single line—in the works of Lee which would hand him over to immortality though he had never written another. "*First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen,*" will last while language lasts. What a sublime eulogium is pronounced in this noble line! so few words, and yet how illustrative are they of the vast and matchless character of Washington. Gen. Henry Lee was the father of Gen. Robert E. Lee, late the commander of the Confederate Army. He went to the West Indies with the hope of improving his health, but never recovered. Early in 1818 he returned to the United States. He stopped at the house of Mrs. Shaw, the daughter of his old friend and companion-in-arms, Gen. Greene, on Cumberland island, off the coast of Georgia, where he died on the twenty-fifth of March, at the age of sixty-two years.

Extracts from a letter dated Yorktown, 7th August, 1812, in regard to the injuries sustained by General Lee from the mob: "On the crown of his head there was a wound about one inch square, which must have been made with a stick or club. It had been sewed up; the bone of the head is not fractured, and this wound seemed to cure fast. On his left cheek there is a deep cut as if made with a pen-knife; his nose was slit with a knife as far as the bridge, and having been immediately sewed up, seems to be united and is doing well, and the nose has its natural form. His right eye has been dreadfully bruised, and is still closed; it is believed the sight will be preserved. The upper lip has been stitched up. He sees out of the left eye, which also was severely bruised; and both sides of his head, his whole face and his throat, from his ears to the breast-bone, are shockingly bruised and much swollen. This arose from efforts to strangle him, and to this cause his ina-



# Chronicles of Baltimore;

BEING A

COMPLETE HISTORY

OF

“Baltimore Town” and Baltimore City

FROM THE

EARLIEST PERIOD TO THE PRESENT TIME.

BY

COL. J. THOMAS SCHARF,

MEMBER OF THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ETC., ETC.

BALTIMORE:

TURNBULL BROTHERS.

1874.