

DORCHESTER MURDER TRIALS.

Removal of the Murray Case to Queen Anne's—New Trial for Cephas.

[Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.]

CAMBRIDGE, MD., May 12.—When the case of John Murray, indicted for the murder of John N. Steele, was called in court here this morning Mr. Henry Page, of counsel for the defense, stated that his client had determined to ask the removal of the case to some other court outside the circuit, and its postponement until after the presidential election. One of the defendant's counsel, Senator Voorhees, he said, would be unable to appear if the case was set for an earlier date, and for this and other reasons he would request the court to assign it to some term of court subsequent to the 1st of November. Senator Voorhees, for the defense, and State's Attorney Henry and Hon. J. W. Crisfield for the prosecution argued briefly for and against the proposition. Messrs. Henry and Crisfield, while conceding the right of the defendant to a removal, urged that an earlier day be set than the one suggested and claimed that no valid reason had been shown for taking the case outside the circuit. When the counsel on both sides had finished the court called for a Sun Almanac, and finding that the Queen Anne's Court will meet on the first Monday in November, decided to postpone the case till that date. In announcing the decision Judge Irving stated that the considerations which probably operated with the prisoner in objecting to a trial in Dorchester county would weigh almost equally against a trial in the counties of Talbot and Caroline, and as the Queen Anne's term seemed to suit all parties best, the court had decided to remove the cause to that court. Murray then made affidavit as to his belief that he could not secure a fair and impartial trial in Dorchester county, and the court passed an order removing the case to the second judicial circuit and postponing its trial to the November term of the court at Centreville, Queen Anne's county. The case will therefore be conducted for the prosecution by the State's attorney for Queen Anne's county, Mr. P. B. Hopper, who will probably invite Mr. Henry, State's attorney of Dorchester, and his assistant, Hon. J. W. Crisfield, to act as counsel with him. This will be Mr. Hopper's first important case of homicide. He is a son of the late Philemon B. Hopper, an eminent lawyer of Queen Anne's county, who was the son of Judge Hopper, one of the best known jurists of the Eastern Shore. Mr. Hopper is a member of the democratic State central committee of his county, and a young lawyer of recognized ability.

The motion of Murray's counsel was a surprise to the court and opposing counsel, as it had been understood that the defense was willing to proceed with trial here. Mr. Murray himself is said to have favored this course, but after consultation his counsel decided this A. M. that it would be better to ask for a removal. Murray was informed of this decision shortly before being brought into court, and expressed his acquiescence.

The new evidence in the case of Fred. Cephas, colored, charged with the murder of Miss Celia Bush, which was mentioned in THE SUN'S dispatches yesterday, is expected to show that two weeks before the murder Cephas said to John Pearson, a neighbor of Miss Bush's, that the old lady had plenty of money and that some one would knock her in the head to get it some day.

State's Attorney Henry expects to take up the Cephas case again next Thursday. Counsel for the defense will probably ask for a trial by the court instead of by jury.