

tulation that this unfortunate accident has produced no unpleasant feelings, in either State.

In pursuance of Chapters 60 and 275 of the Act of the last session, I addressed a communication to the Governor of the State of Virginia, in reference to the appointment of a joint Commission, for the purpose of retracing and marking the boundary lines between that State and this; and, at the same time, I transmitted to him copies of the aforesaid laws. He has replied, notifying me that the matter would be submitted to the consideration of the Legislature of Virginia; since when, no correspondence upon the subject has passed between us.

By the second section, Chapter 106, of the Act of the last session, all commissions, before that time issued to Commissioners to take the acknowledgment of deeds and instruments of writing under seal, out of this State, were continued in force, until the first Monday of May then next ensuing, and until their successors should be appointed and duly qualified; and the Governor was required forthwith to forward a copy of that Act to each of the Commissioners, whose appointment had not been previously revoked or superseded. It was found impossible to comply with this requirement; because, many of them had been in the Commission for a number of years, and the records of the Department, in most cases, did not show their places of residence, within the several States. There is reason to apprehend, therefore, that some of the old Commissioners, who were not re-appointed last year, may have continued to act. I respectfully suggest the propriety of your passing a law to make valid the acts of such Commissioners; and, to authorize the Executive to publish a notice of the law of the last session, in each of the States, for a certain period; at the expiration of which, the section referred to may be made to take effect.

On the seventh of April last, the State's Attorney for Allegany County, officially notified me, that a Bill of Indictment had been found by the Grand Jury of that County, charging Robert Swann with the murder of the late William O. Sprigg; that, a formidable array of legal talent had been retained for the Defence; and that, the cause of Public Justice would be promoted by the assignment of Counsel, to assist in the prosecution. I, accordingly, procured the services of Henry May, Esquire, a distinguished member of the Baltimore Bar. At the next succeeding term of the Circuit Court for Allegany County, the case was called for trial; when, it was found that the Judge of that Circuit was disqualified from sitting, by reason of his family connection with the Accused. By an agreement between the Counsel for the State and the Defence, Joseph I. Merrick, Esquire, was appointed to sit in the cause, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.