

the rioters to disperse, it was suggested that the mayor and George E. Mitchel, esq. then a member of the executive council, should enter the house and search it; this they did amidst the cries of Hitchen's children, and reported to the mob that he was not to be found. They then dispersed, with promises of future vengeance against him, and those who either should rally for his protection or for the preservation of the peace of the city. To the shipping, regularly cleared out according to the laws of the U. States to unprohibited ports, and bearing the produce of our soil, they turned their attention; and in their strength, by dismantling the vessels, they prohibited to the merchant the pursuit of wealth in the channels sanctioned by the government of his country. In the wantonness of their cruelty, the unfortunate blacks attracted their attention, and Briscoe, a free negro, charged with the expressions of affection for the British nation, has to deplore the sacrifice of his houses, amounting to about eight hundred dollars, by their unfeeling agency. An African church, erected by the piety of the well disposed for the improvement and amelioration of the blacks, became to them an object of jealousy, and rumors of a combination for its destruction at length aroused the municipality of the city from its lethargy, and a patrol of horse, by overawing the turbulent, gave to this unhappy place the appearance of quiet.

Your committee have emitted to present to your consideration a variety of incidents, where private revenge sought its gratification under the imposing garb of zeal against the reputed enemies of their country; and where those citizens who have sought an asylum here from the oppression of their own governments, attempted to gratify their embittered passions, by proscription of each other, the avowed cause of which grew out of disturbances at home. To this source may be traced those convulsions of the city where the United Irishmen and Orangemen were the most prominent. During this prostration of the civil authority, Mr. Wagner sought an establishment in the district of Columbia, where the Federal Republican was revived. Mr. Hanson, impelled by considerations of duty to his country, and believing that a decisive stand ought to be taken for the preservation of the freedom of the press, resolved on its re-establishment in the city of Baltimore. A right secured to him by the first principle and express language of our compact. Woful experience taught to believe, that the same spirit of intolerance which led to its first annihilation, would again manifest itself, by an attempt to prevent its re-establishment; and confidently expecting that a resistance on the first onset would lead either to a dispersion of the mob, or the interposition of the civil authority, and thus cause a recognition of his right to locate his establishment there, he organized, by the aid of his personal friends in Montgomery, a force for, and plan of defence, but not of aggression. In execution of this design he came to Baltimore on Sunday the 26th of July—his friends arrived on the same day—their arrival was known to but few. The means of defence and resistance had been previously prepared and deposited in the house, with a secrecy and caution defying a suspicion of the object; and on Monday morning the Federal Republican was circulated amongst the subscribers, purporting to be printed at No. 45, Charles street. This paper contained spirited strictures upon the lawless temper of the city, and the indisposition of the civil or military officers to discharge the respective duties of their office; and upon the executive of Maryland. It does not appear to your committee, that the state of preparation in which Mr. Hanson and his friends were, was known to the citizens generally, and that no acts were done by them either calculated to excite irritation or apprehension of aggression in the minds of the citizens. Their course of conduct during the whole day evinced a determination to adhere to the original design, of avoiding all ostentation of preparation, and to act entirely on the defensive. During the day, information was communicated to those in the house, that an attack would be made; every precaution which prudence and humanity suggested was adopted, to prevent any occurrence which might attract the attention of the mob. About early candle light, the wicked and daring attempt to expel a citizen from his residence, or to involve in one common ruin himself and his property, was commenced, and continued, notwithstanding frequent and reiterated solicitations by the persons in the house to the mob, to desist and retire; and not until the windows were shattered, was even a fire of intimidation permitted from the house. At this, the mob dispersed; but shortly returned with a drum, and fire arms, and with an increased violence attacking the house most furiously in the front and rear. But the same spirit of forbearance animated its defenders till the door was burst open, when a discharge of musketry wounded some of the assailants. Judge Scott hurried to this scene of uproar, and, with Mr. Abell, used every persuasive argument to induce the mob to desist, but with no success; his language and authority were alike treated with contempt. Every exertion which men divested of reason, and inflamed by passion could make, was made to destroy the defenders of the house.—To execute this savage design, the door was again burst open, and a man by the name of Gales, the chief of the mob, shot dead as he entered. A field piece was procured by the mob, and elevated at the house.

While this bloody scene was acting before the house of Mr. Hanson, many well disposed citizens, alarmed for the peace of the city, and anxious for the preservation of the persons in the house, gathered at brigadier general Stricker's, who, irritated by Mr. Hanson's return to the city, which might be the innocent cause of a requisition being made on him by the civil authority, which would necessarily be attended with a responsibility, received some of the applications which were made to him, for the interposition of a military force, in a style well adapted to excite irritation: but still consented to obey any call which the magistracy should deem it expedient to make on him. But such was the intolent spirit of the magistracy against that establishment, or such was their anxiety to avoid any responsibility for their official duties, that great difficulty, and much delay, occurred in procuring two magistrates sufficiently devoted to the public good, and their oath of office, to sign the requisition. Major Barney, of the cavalry, before this, had received an order to repair to his general, which he obeyed with alacrity, and received from him a copy of the orders herewith submitted. Major Barney, with about thirty horsemen under his command, moved down between one and three o'clock to the house. The mob, apprehensive of an efficient resistance, were alarmed, and at his approach generally retired. But his conduct soon dispelled their fears, and gave rise to a belief among them that he was either unwilling, or incompetent to enforce their dispersion. Thus all apprehensions of the military or civil interposition being banished, the timid were emboldened, and the daring unchecked by any suggestions of a future accountability.