

expressing your desire to take the purchase off my hands, I have only to say, that I am quite willing to let you have it at cost. The house is very comfortably fitted up, with quite as much furniture as young beginners ought to have." In this letter, I see no evidence either of a concluded contract or of any definite terms of a contract proposed or concluded, and there is no other reference to be found in any part of the testimony to this conference at Washington.

A few days after the marriage, Mr. Bowie being at Stoddert's, in consequence of the illness of one of his daughters, and Dr. Macubbin being present attending as a physician, the latter testifies to a conversation which then took place between them. Bowie pressed Stoddert to purchase the "Nottingham Farm" for his daughter, saying that if he would do so, he himself would furnish his son Robert with personal property to the amount of ten thousand dollars, the object of the two being to start the young couple in life. He also recollects hearing Stoddert say that Bowie and himself would furnish them with a very pretty start. Bowie also said, that he would furnish his said son and wife with necessaries for the first year after their marriage, to prevent them from anticipating their crops. This is all very vague, and seems to be rather propositions and expressions of intentions at that time than references to a positive agreement entered into at an antecedent period. If any contract then, between Bowie and Stoddert is to be found in this case, we must look for the evidence of its terms solely in the admissions of Bowie in his conversations with the different witnesses. And first, Dr. Maccubbin says, that prior to the marriage, Bowie stated to him in conversation, "that Stoddert exacted as a preliminary condition to the marriage that Robert W. Bowie, Jr., should be relieved from debt, and that he, Robert W. Bowie, would place him in that condition by the payment or assumption of all his liabilities." Whether Robert W. Bowie had submitted to this exaction, and whether it constituted a part of the contract does not appear.

Thomas F. Bowie says, that Robert W. Bowie consulted him with reference to this alleged agreement, and told him, the