

her husband's proposing that she should do so. Soon after this, she returned to Chambersburg; and he remained in Baltimore. He has produced in evidence, some of her letters to him, all of which, do credit to her understanding; and the first of them dated on the 18th, 21st, and 29th of December, 1819, are expressive of a warm affection for him; except, that shortly before the date of the last, it seems as if he had written to her something calculated to vex and distress her. In the same winter, or in the ensuing spring of 1820, she returned to Baltimore, and there had a meeting with her husband, and after a most boisterous quarrel, they parted, and have met no more. Letters and messages have since passed between them; but they have never since cohabited; nor even interchanged the common civilities of life.

The causes of this angry separation, would seem to have been her having, by a perusal of his family papers as he called them, obtained a knowledge of his really vicious, sordid character, as disclosed by those papers; and his pressing efforts to get possession of her fortune, which, with his character, as developed to her by his papers, had produced a conviction on her mind, that he had married her only for the sake of her money; and her representing herself to him as being, previous to their marriage, a widow, when the fact was not so. These causes of animosity have since, from time to time, been re-kindled, and more and more heated, until a state of settled dislike has been produced, which, as was admitted in argument by the solicitors of both of them, it is now altogether impracticable to remove, and have them again brought to cohabit together upon any terms.

It appears, that from the 6th of June, 1820, to the 17th of July, 1821, he was closely confined in the jail of Baltimore county, at the suit of *Jacob Merkle*, for a debt of no more than \$61 28; and that during that time, his sufferings were, in every way, as great as could be produced by a state of the most abject friendless penury. It is said, that she was the instigator of this imprisonment, by having told *Merkle*, that if he would put *Helms* in jail, she would pay the amount in a short time; but on the other hand, it is also said, that *Merkle* was particularly incensed by the conduct of *Helms* himself, and said that he had treated him badly.

Some time after this, *Helms* and his wife, on the 29th of August, 1823, made, signed, sealed, and delivered an instrument in writing, in the following words, that is to say:

'*Lewis Helms*, and his wife *A. G. M. Helms*, have formed a