

thing that partook of the character of disloyalty, and to find out whether he was acting in accordance with what my views were. We differed politically on a good many questions, and so far as my own knowledge of him goes, I have sought to inform myself upon the subject, he distinctly represented himself to me as a man disposed to do nothing that is hostile to the government, he talked upon all occasions as like a loyal citizen of the State of Maryland and the United States.

Question. What was the general understanding as to the object of the destruction of those bridges, to prevent the passage of these troops through Maryland, to prevent their being murdered in the streets of Baltimore?

Answer. I never myself knew by whom those bridges were burned, whether it was done by order of the Police Commissioners or not. I had at the time, being a Union man, differed with the Police Commissioners not having joined the reform movement after they got into operation, besides the party made a good many attacks through the courts and otherwise and I declined defending them in the city courts, so that at the time of this affair, I was in no sort of association with them, and after the 19th of April I did not volunteer to go into their counsel and was not invited and was not acquainted with their movements. I think it not at all unlikely, the first suggestion of the burning of the bridges, emanated upon the occasion I have alluded to, by John Merryman. I said to him as emphatically and almost verbatim, Merryman, if your object is solely to prevent the coming of these troops into town now and during this excitement to prevent bloodshed, if it is a peace movement it is the wisest suggestion I have heard, when he asked me to go with him I declined, because I did not know what else would come of it. I did not know how far I could trust Mr. Merryman or those in association with him, then a little while afterwards when Grason came up the subject was broached again. I understood him to say that he would do nothing in hostility to the government.

*The examination of this witness was here concluded.*

WILLIAM P. SMITH, called as a witness for the respondent, being duly sworn, testified as follows:

Question. Were you a detective of the city, at any time?

Answer. Yes; under Marshal Van Nostrand.

Question. Were you in Baltimore on the 19th of April, 1861?

Answer. Yes.

Question. Did you see the difficulties occur at the depot?

Answer. Yes; I saw the commencement of it; I saw the riot on Pratt Street.