

Answer. No, the first time they got me in the eddy was the time they applied to me to preside over that meeting.

By Mr. Pratt. I suppose you would take a hundred dollars?

Answer. I would do the best I could. By the way, it has never come.

By the Chairman. You are in the same position with the Council?

Answer. I believe they got their retainer; I never got any.

By Mr. Hambleton. Do you know anything more?

Answer. I want to state one thing. Mr. Gardiner, in his evidence the other day, undertook to ridicule me and place me in a ridiculous position before the people of Baltimore. I have been charged with being a notorious person for presiding over meetings. I never presided over but one public meeting in my life in Baltimore, and that was to advocate the right of speech; an old man had been arrested by the Mayor for preaching the word of God on the Sabbath day, and the people saw fit to call a meeting in Monument square to call the Mayor to account for the proceeding. There is or was a person in this room who will testify that I refused over and over again to take the presidency, and it was only at the last moment that I consented. Mr. Hambleton's father had promised to preside, and about a half an hour before the time he sent word that his business engagements were such that he could not come. Under those circumstances, I presided, and I was associated with some Vice Presidents that I don't think would disgrace even any member of this committee.

(Witness here named a number of the Vice Presidents—Dr. John L. Yates, Job Smith, Francis Turner, Dr. John Cramer, Thomas E. Martin, and others.) It was addressed by Coleman Yellott, the present State Senator from Baltimore, James H. Carter, Edward Cramer, H. K. Smith and Wm. H. Hammil. If there is ridicule to be attached to me for presiding over such a meeting, I am glad to receive that kind of ridicule.

*John J. Taylor called and examined by Mr. Hambleton.*

Question. You are a resident of Baltimore?

Answer. I am.

Question. State whether or not you remember the time the three cent meeting just referred to was called?

Answer. I do.

Question. Do you know any of the circumstances connected with the breaking up of that meeting?

Answer. On the day the meeting was called I had one of my boats at the shipyard getting caulked, and Joseph H. Edwards, the head caulker, was engaged with some forty or fifty hands upon it. During the morning, a carriage drove up, and John Hinsley got out and called Edwards one side and had some long conversation with him; and from the fact I understood the day previous.

By Mr. Pratt. State what you know?

Answer. I understood it was to be broken up, and in the afternoon of that day I asked some of the caulkers.

Mr. Pratt. Nothing that they said is evidence.

By Mr. Hambleton. What did you do after this conversation?

Answer. I went up to the square that evening to attend the meeting.— There I found Edwards with quite a number of those employed on the boat.

By Mr. Pratt. What did you see them do?

Answer. I can't say I saw them do anything at that time; the torches had been thrown down and the meeting broken up. I had a conversation with Edwards in regard to it.

Objected to.

Question. Did you not request on that day that Edwards should urge his men to complete the job?

Answer. I can't say I did; they were at work for me.