

and the daring unchecked by any suggestions of a future accountability.

The mayor, the attorney-general, general Stricker, and some citizens distinguished by their political consequence, became the negotiators between the gentlemen in the house and their vindictive assailants. This negotiation terminated in an arrangement, that Mr. Hanson, and his friends, should be conducted to the gaol as a place of security, under a solemn pledge, that every possible exertion should be made for their protection, and the security of their property.

A military escort was prepared, and a guard of unarmed citizens. A hollow square was formed, within which Mr. Hanson and his friends, accompanied by those who had promised them protection, and some other citizens of the greatest political weight, entered; and thus attended by hundreds crying for vengeance, and pressing on for their destruction, they reached the gaol. During this agonizing march, when the ferocity of the mob excited a general belief among those who had confided themselves to the civil power that their destruction would ensue before they should be put into the promised place of protection, frequent attempts were made to massacre them, by the throwing of stones, notwithstanding it endangered the lives of the political favourites of the mob.

Some of those who had been in the house at the commencement of the attack, attempted by various modes to insure a retreat—Some were arrested in their flight by the mob; and the savage temper of this "many headed monster" displayed itself in the cold and deliberate manner in which it planned the execution of its captives.

Revolutionary France furnished the lawless precedent of exhibiting upon the lamp post, by the irresponsible fiat of the populace, those who were supposed wanting in duty to the republic. A native of our country was seized on, and an attempt made to imitate the example set by the blood-thirsty Parisians. From the completion of this sanguinary deed they were prevented by a stratagem suggested by democratic gentlemen, inducing a procrastination until an appointed hour, when they repaired to the place of confinement, to drag forth their victim, before then removed by the interposition and zeal of his friends.

After Mr. Hanson and his friends were placed in gaol, a general apprehension was entertained that the mob would, on the ensuing night, endeavour to force their prison, and glut their vengeance on the unarmed prisoners. The whole city was in a state of commotion; the criminal court was closed, and the anxious and inquiring countenances of the citizens denoted an apprehension of an approaching tragedy, in which all the barbarities which ferocious men, unchecked by the wholesome restraints of the law perform, would be exhibited. The prison was surrounded by groups of an infuriated mob, eternally demanding vengeance.

The weight of character, the necessary concomitant of wealth and political standing in society, was not generally brought into action to allay the excited feelings of the city; but, on the other hand, a belief was impressed that Mr. Hanson and his immediate political friends, were enemies to the country; that his visit to Baltimore was the consequence of an arrangement to insult and dragoon the citizens; that they were murderers; that they would avail themselves of a constitutional right to change the venue to an adjoining county, and thus escape the punishment due to their crimes—The Whig gave extensive circulation to these strictures. The general spirit of intolerance against the establishment, united with the occurrences of the day, and these excitements, produced an apathy among the well disposed, and gave an increased activity to the turbulent and vindictive.

The mayor and brigadier visited those confined in gaol, refused them arms for defence, and gave them solemn assurances that a guard would be stationed in and around the gaol, and that whatever power the civil or military could wield, should be given for their protection. Other citizens repaired to Judge Scott's, and required that the military should be ordered out; and after a considerable delay the requisition to brigadier-general Stricker was procured, who issued to col. Sterett, commanding the fifth regiment, to major Barney, of the cavalry, to colonel Harris, of the artillery, the respective orders accompanying this report. It appears to your committee that whatever may be the construction of the orders given to colonel Sterett, general Stricker verbally forbid him to deliver out to the men under his command ball cartridges. Of colonel Sterett's regiment thus ordered out, but thirty or forty obeyed the call of their commander; this defection, in the opinion of your committee, may be traced to the united causes of indisposition to protect the persons in the gaol, an apprehension of immediate danger, of future proscription, and to the inefficient preparation under which they were ordered to march—of the cavalry but a few attended.

During these operations in Gay-street, it was known to those ferocious monsters who panted at the gaol for the blood of their unarmed fellow-citizens, that the military were ordered out. The mayor used every persuasive argument to induce them to disperse, and to effect that, gave them a solemn pledge that neither Mr. Hanson nor his friends should be bailed. These assurances, united with apprehensions of a formidable resistance from the military, produced from some a reluctant promise that the gaol should not be attempted—Some of the most daring had

left the gaol, and repaired to see the operations of the force convening to arrest the completion of their horrid designs. At this unfortunate moment, an interchange of opinion took place between general Stricker and others, which resulted in a belief that the interposition of the military would not be requisite, and that if any should be required, the force collected would be insufficient; orders were given to dismiss the military—it was the signal of destruction. The mob collected with a savage impetuosity, and heedless of the feeble opposition formed by the intreaties of the mayor, they attacked the sanctuary of the prisoners—The outer door was opened by treachery; the inner doors yielded to their rage and force; they entered the room of the gentlemen; there a scene of horror and murder ensued, which for its barbarity has no parallel in the history of the American people, and no equal but in the massacres of Paris. The good, the venerable, the gallant General Lingan, whose early life was distinguished by his active and manly exertions to rescue this country from the controul of a British parliament; who was honoured by the confidence of the immortal saviour of the nation, and who practised every christian virtue, was here overpowered by these sons of murder, and became the victim of their merciless ferocity. Seven or eight of the gentlemen were thrown in a heap, under an impression, entertained by these assassins, that they were dead. Some effected their escape by stratagem, or by the interposition of some protecting friend. One was detained as a subject for the trial of every refinement of torture which their fiend-like invention suggested. The humanity of certain medical gentlemen was exerted, and by their interposition, under Divine Providence, those supposed to be dead were restored to life and society. On the ensuing day a general terror prevailed throughout the city.

Your committee further find, that no attention was paid to the preservation of the house and property thus abandoned, but that a few men were suffered, during the day, to be actively engaged in doing every possible injury to the same. Federalists, deeming themselves insecure from a conviction, arising from past occurrences, that the civil power was too feeble for their protection, and that the military were unwilling to rally around the judiciary when the object was either the security of their persons or property, fled in every direction—No exertions were made to arrest the disturbers, and they assumed to themselves the sovereign power of controuling the government of the United States, by regulating the concerns of the post-office. They assembled with a view to the demolition of the office, in order to collect and destroy the papers of the Federal Republican, transmitted by mail to subscribers in the city. The activity of Mr. Burrell, of the post-office, discovered the combination, and with promptitude communicated to the mayor and brigadier-general the grounds of his belief. They became at last convinced of the fact, which the experience of all countries had proved, that the mobs of populous cities can only be restrained and overawed by the application of an efficient force—And the general, without any written requisition, but upon assurances that any should be given thereafter which the result of his opposition might require, ordered the whole of his brigade, at the head of which he appeared, as became a military chief. A distribution of ball took place, and every preparation was made, evidencing a determination to disperse the tumultuous. But even here, surrounded with the military, the civil power did not abandon the same wretched system of concession and conciliation; for it appears to your committee, that upon the manifestation of a spirit of insubordination among some of the military, the mayor proposed to the post master to deliver up the Federal Republican papers, to be carried to the dwelling of the mayor, with a solemn assurance to the mob, that they should be returned in the morning by the mail to Washington. The post-master stated the embarrassments arising from the nature of his official duties; and upon a consultation at the residence of Mr. Burrell, the proposition was abandoned, and a resolution adopted to protect the establishment. Before which, the mayor avowed a determined resolution to protect the office, but at the same time to allay the irritation of a portion of the militia, who complained of their being called out for the protection of the Federal Republican, he stated, "You are not assembled to protect the paper; you are marched here to protect the property of the United States, and to support the laws. I myself, would draw my sword, and head my fellows, to put down that establishment." An order from the colonel, and the voluntary charge by some of the horse, dispersed the rioters. For many successive nights a military guard was stationed; a determination was manifested that the peace of the city should be preserved, and it produced the effect—The grand jury, in its regular course, investigated the subject, and presented some of those engaged in the murder and riots. They were arrested and committed to prison; threats of rescue were made; a military force was stationed during the night at the prison, and artillery planted in the hall of the gaol. These operations were attended with an uniform result, establishing incontrovertibly, that the course of forbearance and concession selected by those charged with the preservation of the peace of the city, was productive of no other effect than to embolden the wicked. The trials took place—The first of them exhibited a temper in the jury, utterly inconsistent with the object of criminal jurisprudence; the pu-

ishment of the guilty; the attorney-general of Maryland frequently declared his belief, that no conviction against the offenders could be had; and still omitted to enter a suggestion on the record that the state could not have a fair trial, and to pray that the records might be transmitted to another county. An universal acquittal of the most blood-thirsty ensued; and the melancholy apprehension is now entertained, that the wicked have nothing there to fear from the retributive justice of the state.

Your committee further find, that the ordinary power with which the magistrates are invested for the preservation of the peace of the city, was in no instance, except as stated by your committee, called into action; that the constables are corrupt, and exercise an undue influence over the magistracy, that the Court of Oyer and Terminer and General Gaol Delivery is conducted in a manner inconsistent with the dignity due to a tribunal invested with such extensive power.

Your committee find, that during the morning of the twenty-eighth of July, John Montgomery, Esquire, did, in order to prevent the firing of the cannon levelled at the house, make use of every exertion, and encountered great danger, and that during these agitations, frequent meetings of the most respectable citizens of both parties were convened by the mayor, in order to concert some plan of operations to insure the peace of the city, and which uniformly resulted only in recommendations to the turbulent to forbear, and recommending a proclamation, to be signed by the magistracy, calling on the peace officers to be vigilant in the preservation of order.

Your committee have presented to your consideration the causes and extent of the late riots—They now will submit to you an expression of their opinion, formed upon a dispassionate examination of the testimony, "as to the conduct of the Civil and Military Officers in relation thereto." It is the opinion of your committee, that during all the agitations which have convulsed the city of Baltimore, Edward Johnson, Esquire, did every thing which could be required of him as a private citizen; but they have to regret, that, as Mayor, charged with the preservation of the quiet of the city, his forbearance, and indisposition to resort to the ordinary powers of coercion, with which he was invested, against the turbulent and wicked, was so distinguished as to encourage a belief that he connived at and approbated their excesses. That he was guilty of a most reprehensible indiscretion, when he used to the refractory militia intemperate language against the Federal Republican, the inevitable effect of which was to sanction and excite, by his weight of character, the popular excesses against the same. That when he, at the Post-Office, surrounded with the military and his political friends, submitted a proposition, the object of which was to ensure the triumph of the illegal combinations of the Mob, he evidenced a timidity, and a want of judgment, irresistibly inducing a belief of his usefulness for the station which he filled. That his course of forbearance, united with the wicked inertness of the magistracy, and deplorable corruption of the constables, nurtured and gave maturity to that meretricious spirit of licentiousness, which terminated in the tragical and lawless events detailed by your committee.

That General Stricker, aware of the ferocious and blood-thirsty temper of the Mob, who were eternally vociferating "blood for blood," and seeking to satiate their vengeance by the instrumentality of a field-piece levelled at the house, failed to gratify the spirit of the requisition made on him by the civil power, when he issued to Major Barney orders not calculated to ensure the return of order and peace, by enforcing the dispersal of those who were violating both.

That Major Barney erred, when (although tied down by his orders, and evidencing every disposition to prevent the effusion of blood and to allay the violence of the Mob,) instead of preserving a dignified stand, such as became a soldier, he so conducted himself as to banish that awe and apprehension which the presence of an armed cavalry naturally inspires. That his pledge to the Mob, that none of those in the house should escape, was calculated to give all that confirmation which would necessarily result from the expression of his opinion, that the gentlemen in the house were the aggressors, and that the Mob, of course, were justified in their horrid outrages. That General Stricker, knowing as he did, that a portion of his brigade manifested a spirit incompatible with the gratification of any military order, which the requisition on him demanded, and being present, when the sanguinary temper of the rioters evidenced itself, in a force incompati-

* The House of Delegates, yesterday morning, proceeded to dispose of the preceding Report, when Mr. Lecompte, of Dorchester, and a member of the committee of grievances, moved to strike out the words "instead of preserving a dignified stand, such as became a soldier, he so conducted himself as to banish that awe and apprehension which the presence of an armed cavalry naturally inspires."—and to insert "and to induce the Mob to disperse, which had the effect"—The House adopted the amendment. Mr. Lecompte remarked, "as a member of the committee he had sanctioned and assented to the Report, as submitted to the House by the Chairman, but that on reflection he was induced to amend the amendment."

We are authorised to say, that Messrs. Dorsey, Heston, Bayly, Lecompte, and Causin, assented to the Report in the form in which it was reported by the Chairman.

ble with the safety of the persons confined in the gaol, and unchecked by the interposition of the force with which they were surrounded, failed to do duty to his country when he ordered out a larger portion of the troops on the 28th—That he was of a manifest departure from principle of prudence, when he verbally rendered unavailing a promise, given to Colonel Sterett, on any assailants. This is in the opinion of your committee the most decided reproach being utterly inconsistent with having a direct tendency to reprobative, any application of military force; nor can the discipline of the troops on the evening of the 28th day of July, when opinions were entertained as to the signs of the turbulent, when power was lulled into a fatal security, assurances of an efficient militia preparation, when the General and his advisers were vibrating between apprehensions of danger and belief of safety when no exertions were made to the temper of the different quarters of the city, be considered in any aspect than as the act of a timid man seeking to avoid a responsibility of awful consequences resulting from an efficient military resistance. A military regiment assembled as a portion of the fifth regiment, was inadequate for the purpose of defence. General Stricker owed it to the solemnity of the occasion, to his pledge to the gentlemen in the gaol, to his duty to the people, to appear in the most impressive manner, and to invite all, either by military pride, by political influence, or by personal confidence, to rally under his banners. That such a military preparation would have been productive of a result favourable to humanity, and our pride of state, and that the occurrences connected with the operations at the gaol, had not taken place, that those wretches who had thus defied the law, and outraged humanity, should, by a fair administration of justice, be brought to punishment, had right to expect that the law of the state would see, that at an impartial trial should be had. Your committee are therefore of opinion, that John Montgomery, Esquire, Attorney-General, when he bore witness that the sovereignty of the law was not, either from corruption in the officers, or the influence of public opinion, an event anticipated from the views of our government, be vindicated in the city of Baltimore, was both by his duty and his oath obliged to enter a suggestion of his belief, and pray for the removal of the trial to an adjoining county. This omission, in the opinion of your committee, derived from this house a severe animadversion. All which is submitted.

By order, L. GASSAWAY.

ADDITIONAL REPORT

The Committee of Grievances, Courts of Justice, beg leave further to report—That they find, that E. Stansbury, then a Brigadier-General in the militia of this state, a Delegate to the General Assembly of Maryland from Baltimore County, on the twenty-eighth day of July, 1791, refused to obey or aid the civil authority in the preservation of the tranquility of the city—That he frequently used violent and inflammatory expressions, and calculated to excite the Mob to break the gaol, and to rescue Mr. Hanson and his friends, who confided themselves to the protection of the law; and to depress the spirits of those who laboured to allay the infuriated temper of the turbulent to divert the assassins from the summation of their vengeance. That he was present when the crimes were perpetrated either on General Stricker or Lingan—That he has frequently expressed an opinion, and wish that those persons who were defending the house in Charles-street, ought to have been put to death, when in the house, the Mob; and has also declared, that he has been present, that he would have aided in their destruction.

When your Committee reflected on the many manifestations of confidence which Mr. Stansbury has received