

Annual Message resolution had been adopted several years before my official term, and that I was ignorant of the reasons which prevented my predecessor from complying with it, I was doubtful of the propriety of procuring the sword before a specific appropriation was made for that purpose. I have brought this subject to the notice of the Legislature that they may give some new authority or direction for carrying the resolution into effect.

Some time in the month of April 1840 a murder was committed in Frederick County by Frederick Furdy, alias Jacob Brucher who was tried at the following April Term of Carroll County Court convicted and sentenced to be hung. A warrant was signed for his execution but as a number of respectable persons suggested doubts of his being in his right mind a respite was granted to give an opportunity of collecting information respecting his previous history which it appeared had not been made the subject of investigation at his trial. Numerous communications and depositions were received, setting forth the particulars of his conduct and behaviour which showed, if they were correctly stated, that he had been subject to fits of insanity for many years and that he was perfectly deranged, when he was seen in the City of Washington a few days before the commission of the murder. On the other hand, respectable and intelligent citizens of Westminster, who had opportunities of seeing and conversing with him, formed the opinion, that he was in the full possession of his reason, and was subject to no disorder of mind, except that which was occasionally produced by a violent and ungovernable temper. The reasons, however, which they gave for that opinion, did not appear to be inconsistent with the accounts of his previous insanity, and after consulting with Judge Brewer, who sat upon his trial and who thought a further investigation ought to be made for the purpose of ascertaining the condition of his mind, I was led to believe, that the ends of justice would be best answered by not ordering his execution. At the same time I was unwilling to commute or mitigate his punishment, without having satisfactory proof that he was actually insane at the time the offence was committed. Not having the power to appoint commissioners for the purpose of investigating the facts, it appeared to be the best course to wait till the Legislature met, and to suggest, as I now respectfully do, the propriety of authorizing the Court of Carroll County to examine witnesses, at its next term, with the view of ascertaining the state of the prisoner's mind.

The banks of this State have persisted so long in refusing to redeem their notes, that there is no reason to expect that they will return of their own accord to the path marked out to them by their charters. It is now a question for the Legislature to determine, how much longer they are to be permitted to disregard the laws of the State, and the rights of the community.

The opinion may still be entertained, that the State banks can now be properly regulated without the aid of a National Bank, and a