

prevent similar occurrences in the future. Copies of this correspondence are herewith transmitted. Without designing to exhibit the least want of confidence in the will and power of the officers of the General Government to make good the assurances given by the President, I determined, nevertheless, that Maryland should not be an idle spectator of such proceedings as might be instituted by the Federal authorities. The blood of a Marylander cried out from the earth, whilst, the genius of this Union called aloud for a vindication of outraged laws, upon the faithful observance of which alone it can rest. I anticipated, and it soon became apparent, that, the flame of excitement would spread from the hills of Maryland to the savannahs of the extreme South; until every Southern State would unite in one common feeling, of horror and indignation. To see justice done, and to guard against disastrous results, were now the two main objects of my solicitude. Experience has shown to every man, that, the guilty may occasionally escape justice, without culpable design or neglect on the part of its administrators. Courts, Juries, and Counsel may be pure and firm; yet, the evidence may fail, or the law prove insufficient. In view of such a possible contingency, I felt the importance of placing myself in a position to be able to satisfy the people of Maryland, and other Southern States, that, the failure to convict the Christiana rebels was not to be taken as proof of the negligence, apathy, or prejudice of Northern Judges and Jurors. Therefore, I determined to send the Attorney General of Maryland, either as a participant in, or witness of the prosecutions. His high personal character, acknowledged ability, and official station, would, I well knew, command the respect and confidence of all. His report could not fail to give a proper direction to public sentiment. Upon his testimony, the people of Maryland, and the South, would rest contented, even though the trials might result in the acquittal of the murderers, if he vouched for the fairness and impartiality of the proceedings. In the absence of such reliable testimony, I was aware that, an acquittal would be regarded, here, as *prima facie* evidence of the triumph of a corrupt fanaticism, which was the very evident prospect before me, when I resolved upon my course. I accordingly, instructed the Attorney General to attend the preliminary investigation, held at Lancaster, before Alderman Beigart, (whose firm and noble bearing entitles him, to the respect of every honorable and patriotic citizen;) and, to report the result to me. He did so. As soon as I ascertained that, the criminals had been arrested and held for trial, upon a charge of high treason, against the United States, I further instructed the Attorney General to apply for permission to participate in the prosecution; and in the event of a refusal, then to be present at the trials, and report the proceedings to me. The application was readily acceded to, by the Federal Government. I likewise employed the Hon. James Cooper, (United States Senator from Pennsylvania, a distinguished Lawyer and Statesman, and a friend of constitutional rights,) as assistant Counsel. Thus represented, Maryland made her appearance at the bar of the public justice of the United States, and before a Pennsylvania Jury; claiming not the worthless bread of individual traitors, but the vindication of the chartered rights of the South, which had been trampled down in the blood of her own citizens. Maryland stood there, and plead for the Constitution, through the wounds of her murdered son. The result is before us. The peace-loving, the Union-loving, the law-abiding State of Maryland has failed to secure justice. Although, she is a border State, and is, practically, more interested in this fugitive slave law, than all other States beside, nevertheless has she admonished South Carolina against secession, and cheered on Virginia in the ways of loyalty. Although she would never have entered this Confederacy, (as every instructed man well knows,) without the insertion in the Federal Constitution of the very clause, for the enforcement of which the fugitive slave law was passed, nevertheless, has she patiently, and almost uncomplainingly, stood by, and witnessed the treasonable assaults upon the Constitution, made by Abolitionists, in and out of Congress. When