

springing from the exasperated feelings of friends, relatives, and neighbours, when they gaze upon the mangled remains of such men as Edward Gorsuch, who may hereafter be butchered, as he was, in the sacrifice of a Constitutional Right. Do not shut your eyes to the pregnant truth that, human reason will master human passions, only so long, as Hope points to relief, by lawful means. Firmness, now, is patriotism. Candor, now, is wisdom. It may be too late, hereafter. With an abiding confidence, in the mercy of Providence, whose fatherly eye hath watched over the infancy of this Republic, I commit to your prudent councils this momentous subject. Happily, most happily, the North and the South have spoken out, in favor of the Constitution as the basis of the Union. Great Constitutional victories have been achieved, through the peaceful agency of the ballot box, in Georgia, Michigan, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Mississippi, and even South Carolina, where the flame of agitation blazed highest. Yet, even in Georgia and Mississippi, the last ground has been taken. Such leaders, as the Southern Union party were proud to follow, in the recent embittered contest, have unanimsly sent forth the word of caution to the North. Let us sincerely hope that the voices of patriotic men, who have encountered much, suffered much, and accomplished every thing, may not fall upon unwilling, or deluded ears. Shall domestic feud destroy our power, when the eyes of all nations are turned to the star of our empire, as the harbinger of their deliverance? Shall Russia blast Hungary with the breath of our discord? Shall O'Brien, in his lonely exile, see the hope of Ireland pass down the horizon, with the western sun? May so incalculable a calamity be spared to the nations of the earth. And, yet, when American blood is made to flow upon American soil, as a grateful libation to American fanaticism; when, whole communities stand listlessly by, and a prostituted press and venal politicians are found, in the open day, to glory in the human sacrifice; when, the Law proclaims its own weakness from the bench, and Treason stalks unpunished, through the halls of Justice; the Nations can judge of the probable remoteness of that calamity.

I cannot close this brief review of the Christiana treason, without paying a richly merited tribute to the distinguished Attorney General of Maryland. The great zeal, prudence, energy, and ability, displayed by him, in the trying scenes, through which he has lately passed, cannot fail to command your respect. The moral firmness exhibited, and the efficient services rendered by the Hon. Mr. Cooper, will, also, receive, as they deserve, your cordial approbation. When you shall have examined the voluminous report of the proceedings at the trial of Murray, taken, under the supervision of Counsel, by my orders, (a printed copy of which is herewith transmitted,) and, likewise, the complete review of the law and the facts by the Attorney General himself, to which I have already referred, you will be better able to form a just estimate of the labors and services of those distinguished gentlemen.

Immediately after my entrance into office, my attention was attracted to an important matter, in which the City of Baltimore and the State of Maryland are deeply interested. You are aware that, the late John McDonough, of New Orleans, in the State of Louisiana, died possessed of a large estate, the great bulk of which, he bequeathed to the Cities of Baltimore and New Orleans for charitable and educational purposes. The provision made by him, for his heirs, at law, was proportionably insignificant. Through correspondence, which had recently been opened between this department and one of the counsel for absent heirs, appointed by the fifth District Court of New Orleans, and from other sources, I learned that the heirs, at law, had manifested a determination to assail the will of McDonough, upon the broad principles, that the conditions and limitations, annexed to the bequest, were not only impracticable in themselves, but in direct contravention of public policy. It is not necessary, here, to enter more fully into the details of the will, upon which the opinion of its invalidity was predicated. I was notified that, the State of Louisiana, looking to, and anticipating the threatened action of