

To, John W. Ashmead, Esquire,
Attorney of the United States for the Eastern District of
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Department of State }
Washington, 8th November, 1857. }

Sir,

You will of course represent the Government of the United States as its Attorney in the approaching trials at Philadelphia, and perform all official duties which the occasion may call for.

The people of Maryland take an interest in the occasion, as one of their fellow citizens, a very respectable gentleman, was murdered by the mob, and it is understood that Governor Lowe desires that eminent Counsel, designated by himself, may be present, with an opportunity of lending their aid to the prosecution. No objection is perceived to complying with this wish. I should think it proper that, as Attorney of the United States, you should open the cases to the Court and jury in the common way; that arguments on incidental questions, arising at the trials, should be conducted by the different Counsel as may be amicably arranged by them, and that you should tender to the gentlemen who may be present at the request of Governor Lowe, the offer of making the concluding address to the jury by one of themselves.

I shall send a copy of this communication to Governor Lowe.

I am, Sir, very Respectfully,
Your obedient Servant.
Dan Webster.

State Department }
Annapolis Md Nov: 11th 1857 }

From: Dan Webster,
Secretary of State, of the United States

Sir,

I had the honor to receive by the mail of to day your communication of the 8th inst. enclosing a copy of the letter addressed by your Department to John W. Ashmead, Esquire the Attorney of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, in regard to the course to be pursued by him towards the Maryland Counsel in the trials of the parties charged with Murder of Edward Gorsuch. I am exceedingly gratified at the liberal and proper view taken by your Department, of this delicate matter.

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From: Webster
To: Ashmead
Concerning
the trial
held in
Penn:

sent to
the Gov^r
by Secy
State of U.S

From:
Gov: Lowe
to
Dan Webster
acknowledging
the receipt
of his
communication
the 8th inst.