

distribute to all the deserving in Kent and the adjacent region, who partook in the excitement, resulting from the shocking murders. The fund, at your disposal (the contingent fund) would be begged to afford a pittance to each.

To those whose efforts, happened to be so timed and so directed, as to bring them within the terms and meaning of the proclamation, I felt constrained to limit the distribution. Those, whose action, in this respect lead directly to the apprehension and conviction, and who make claim, have all received a portion of the bounty.

Between the merits of the individuals of the several parties, who participated in the arrests of Taylor, of Shaw, of Shelton, & of Drummond, it is impossible to distinguish. None but an eye witness could have discovered the shades of merit, if any there were, between the parties. To each is awarded a like share.

In the case of Murphy, three fourths of the money is awarded to Thackary. It will be observed, that almost single handed he proceeded to the apprehension which was followed by conviction. Huggins did point out the offender, and when he had been arrested, came forward and aided to place one hand cuff upon him. But in his own evidence he does not claim to have done more. Something is taken from Thackary for the reward of service rendered him by Huggins. With consent of all parties, at the opening of the case, it was agreed, that each of the claimants, who thought proper to do so, should set forth his claim, under oath, subject to cross examination by the rest. And the remark deserves to be made, how little discrepancy is to be discovered between those who, with conflicting claims, testify in regard to the same facts. This is the more remarkable, that in most instances, each man, from his strong perception of his own merits, was understood to be claiming the whole sum due to the particular arrest in which he partook.

As the claimants appeared by counsel, and it was understood a good deal of examination and cross examination would be made, it was suggested to me by counsel to employ the services