

Rockville, found him as well acquainted, with criminal law, as any one he knew. During the discussions at this annual meeting, in which I occasionally participated, Mr. Forrest gave me hints, *en passant*, from time to time, to illustrate and give strength to my arguments.

In the progress of these deliberations, an overture was made to me by Wm. A. Bradley, of Washington, to effect the election of John T. Mason, of Alexandria, as successor to Mr. Mercer, accompanied by the assurance that this substitution would restore harmony. I consented to propose this arrangement to the proxy of the United States government, and was on my way to see him, when a hand-bill was shown to me by a friend, calling a public meeting to protest against the election of Mr. Eaton, whom it mentioned in libellous terms. To have pursued my mission further, under such circumstances, would have given just cause of offence; I therefore abandoned, and said nothing more about it to any one.

The discussion closed, and on the 6th June, 1833, as we were about to ballot, Mr. Forrest smilingly asked me, for whom I intended to vote as president? I referred, in the same manner to my public declarations, for my answer; and I then returned the query, to which he playfully replied, that he could not vote for Mr. Eaton. I then proposed that he should cast one half of the votes, to which the State was entitled for Mr. Mercer, and that I would vote the other half for Mr. Eaton. He observed that as any division of the votes might be objected to, he preferred that we should not vote for a president, but merely for the directors; to which course, as it could not change the result, I readily agreed: and when the ballots were counted, it was seen that we had correctly believed, that Mr. Eaton's success was certain, even if the entire votes of Maryland had been cast in favor of Mr. Mercer. The votes cast were as follows:

For Mr. Eaton:

The United States	-	-	-	-	2,008
The Corporation of Washington	-	-	-	-	2,008
Individual stockholders	-	-	-	-	1,038
					<hr/> 5,054

For Mr. Mercer:

The State of Virginia	-	-	-	-	570
The Corporation of Alexandria	-	-	-	-	508
Individual stockholders	-	-	-	-	2,362
					<hr/> 3,440

Majority for Mr. Eaton	-	-	-	-	<hr/> 1,614
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And the votes to which the State of Maryland was entitled, were but	-	-	-	-	-	<hr/> 1,290
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Mr. Forrest and I having concurred in the opinion that it was inexpedient to re-elect Mr. Mercer, we did not vote to defer the