

to purchase the title of John J. Myer to the lot on which the State Tobacco Warehouses, No. 2 and 3, are erected. Mr. Myer was prevented from acceding to the terms proposed in the resolution, by the refusal of his wife to relinquish her right of dower. Since his death, which recently occurred, it has been ascertained that his representatives are unwilling to part with their title.

At December session 1835, a resolution was passed, directing the Governor to procure a sword, and present it, in the name of the State, to Captain John A. Webster for his gallant defence of the battery committed to his charge, during the attack upon the city of Baltimore in September 1814.

My attention was called to this resolution last winter, and I was then under the impression that it might be carried into effect without any further action of the Legislature. But when I came to consider, that the resolution had been adopted several years before the commencement of my official term, and that I was ignorant of the reasons which prevented my predecessor from complying with it, I was doubtful of the propriety of procuring the sword before a specific appropriation was made for that purpose. I have brought this subject to the notice of the Legislature, that they may give some new authority or direction for carrying the resolution into effect.

Some time in the month of April 1840, a murder was committed in Frederick County by Frederick Fritz, alias Jacob Brucker, who was tried at the following April term of Carroll County Court, convicted, and sentenced to be hung. A warrant was signed for his execution, but as a number of respectable persons suggested doubts of his being in his right mind, a respite was granted, to give an opportunity of collecting information respecting his previous history, which, it appeared, had not been made the subject of investigation at his trial. Numerous communications and depositions were received, setting forth the particulars of his conduct and behaviour, which showed, if they were correctly stated, that he had been subject to fits of insanity for many years, and that he was perfectly deranged, when he was last seen in the City of Washington, a few days before the commission of the murder. On the other hand, respectable and intelligent citizens of Westminster, who had opportunities of seeing and conversing with him, formed the opinion, that he was in full possession of his reason, and was subject to no disorder of mind, except that which was occasionally produced by a violent and ungovernable temper. The reasons, however, which they gave for that opinion, did not appear to be inconsistent with the accounts of his previous insanity; and after consulting with Judge Brewer, who sat upon his trial, and who thought a further investigation ought to be made for the purpose of ascertaining the condition of his mind, I was led to believe, that the ends of justice would be best answered by not ordering his execution. At the same time I was unwilling to commute or mitigate his punishment, without