

ject. 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 unanimously 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 everything, may not fall upon unwilling or deluded ears. Shall domestic feuds destroy our power, when the eyes of all nations are turned to the star of our empire, as the harbinger of their deliverance? Shall Kossuth 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 Hanway, 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 an immense 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. From a correspondence, which had recently been opened between this Department and one of the Counsel for absent heirs, appoint-