

The mayor, the attorney-general, general Stricker, and some citizens distinguished by their political consequence, became the negotiators between the gentlemen in the house and their vindictive assassins. This negotiation terminated in an arrangement, that Mr. Hanson and his friends should be conducted to the gaol as a place of security, under a solemn pledge, that every possible exertion should be made for their protection and the security of their property.

A military escort was prepared, and a guard of unarmed citizens. A hollow square was formed within which Mr. Hanson and his friends, accompanied by those who had promised them protection, and some other citizens of the greatest political weight, entered; and thus attended by hundreds crying for vengeance, and pressing on for their destruction, they reached the gaol. During this agonizing march, when the ferocity of the mob excited a general belief among those who had confided themselves to the civil power that their destruction would ensue before they should be put into the promised place of protection, frequent attempts were made to massacre them, by the throwing of stones, notwithstanding it endangered the lives of the political favorites of the mob.

Some of those who had been in the house at the commencement of the attack, attempted by various modes to insure a retreat: some were arrested in their flight by the mob; and the savage temper of the "many headed monster" displayed itself in the cold and deliberate manner in which it planned the execution of its captives.

Revolutionary France furnished the lawless precedent of exhibiting upon the lamp post, by the irresistible fiat of the populace, those who were supposed wanting in duty to the republic. A native of this country was seized on, and an attempt made to imitate the example set by the blood thirsty Parisians. From the completion of this sanguinary deed they were prevented by a stratagem suggested by the democratic gentlemen, inducing a procrastination until an appointed hour, when they repaired to the place of confinement, to drag forth their victim, before removed by the interposition and zeal of his friends.

After Mr. Hanson and his friends were placed in gaol, a general apprehension was entertained that the mob would, on the ensuing night, endeavor to force their prison, and glut their vengeance on the unarmed prisoners. The whole city was in a state of commotion; the criminal court was closed, and the anxious and inquiring countenances of the citizens denoted an apprehension of an approaching tragedy, in which all the barbarities which ferocious men, unchecked by the wholesome restraints the law perform, would be exhibited. The prison was surrounded by groups of an infuriated mob, continually demanding vengeance.

The weight of character, the necessary concomitant of wealth and political standing in society, was not generally brought into action to allay the excited feelings of the city; but, on the other hand, a belief was impressed that Mr. Hanson and his immediate political friends were enemies to the country, that his visit to Baltimore was the consequence of an arrangement to insult and dragoon the citizens, that they were murderers; that they would avail themselves of a constitutional right to change the venue to an adjoining county, and thus escape the punishment due to their crimes. The Whig gave extensive circulation to these strictures. The general spirit of intolerance against the establishment united with the occurrences of the day, and these excitements produced an apathy among the well disposed, and gave an increased activity to the turbulent and vindictive.

The mayor and brigadier visited those confined in gaol, refused them arms for defence, and gave the solemn assurances that a guard would be stationed in and around the gaol, and that whatever power the civil or military could wield, should be given for their protection. Other citizens repaired to Judge Scott's, and required that the military should be ordered out; and after a considerable delay, the requisition to brigadier general Stricker was procured, who issued to col. Sterett, commanding the fifth regiment, to major Barney, of the cavalry, to col. Harris, of the artillery, the respective orders accompanying this report. It appears to your committee that whatever may be the construction of the orders given to colonel Sterett, general Stricker verbally forbid him to deliver out to the men under his command ball cartridges. Of col. Sterett's regiment thus ordered out, but thirty or forty obeyed the call of the commander; this defection, in the opinion of your committee, may be traced to the united causes of indisposition to protect the persons in the gaol, an apprehension of immediate danger, of future proscription, and to the inefficient preparation under which they were ordered to march—of the cavalry a few attended.

During these operations in Gay street, it was known to those ferocious monsters who panted at the gaol for the blood of their unarmed fellow citizens, that the military were ordered out. The mayor used every persuasive argument to induce them to disperse, and to effect that, gave them a solemn pledge that neither Mr. Hanson nor his friends should be bailed. These assurances, united with apprehensions of a formidable resistance from the military, produced from some a reluctant promise that the attack should not be attempted. Some of the most daring had left the gaol, and repaired to see the operation of the force convening to arrest the completion of their horrid designs. At this unfortunate moment an interchange of opinion took place between general Stricker and others, which resulted in a belief that the interposition of the military would not be requisite, and if any should be required, the force collected would be insufficient; orders were given to dismiss the military—it was the signal of destruction. The mob collected with a savage impetuosity, and heedless of the feeble opposition formed by the intreaties of the mayor, they attacked the sanctuary of the prisoners—the outer door was opened by treachery; the inner doors yielded to their rage and force; they entered the room of the gentlemen, there a scene of horror and murder ensued, which for its barbarity has no parallel in the history of the American people, and no equal but in the massacres of Paris. The good, the venerable, the gallant General Langan, whose early life was distinguished by his active and manly exertions to rescue his country from the controul of a British parliament; who was honored by the confidence of the brave savior of the nation, and who practised every christian virtue, was here overpowered by these sons of murder, and became the victim of their merciless ferocity. Seven or eight of the gentlemen were thrown in a heap, under an impression, entertained by these assassins, that they were dead. Some effected their escape by stratagem, or by the interposition of some protecting friend. One was del