

Kennedy was murdered, she was passive. When Gordon was murdered, she spoke, through her Executive only. She has been mild as the dove, and gentle as the lamb. How far she is to become the decision of her sister States, it will be for you, gentlemen, to determine. I do not hesitate, nay, it is my sworn duty, to speak the truth to you, and to say, that the trial of Castner Hanway was a farce, which only added new insult to old injury. The offensive manner in which that trial was conducted, by subaltern officers, the manifestations of the rebel sympathisers and the extraordinary decision of the Court, will more fully appear to you, by reference to the lucid and powerful report of the Attorney General, herewith transmitted. This judicial exposition of the law of treason, as applied in Hanway's case, utterly annihilates the fugitive slave act, if there was ever anything of substance in its susceptible of annihilation. It lays down the extraordinary doctrine that, the criminal must be shown to have had actual knowledge of the law, which he has violated, before he can be declared guilty of treason; and that, the fugitive slave act is a private remedy, and not in the nature of a public general law, armed resistance to which would amount to waging war against the Government. These are the practical deductions from the charge of Judge Grier, and will apply to all other probable cases, as well as to that of Hanway. I state them broadly, as they may certainly be expected to operate hereafter. If Hanway's offence was not treason, then, no resistance to the fugitive slave act, henceforth, can be brought within the law of treason. Any one must see, at a single glance, that, if this decision stands, the fugitive slave act is a mockery and a delusion. If this be the law, then, why were those trials undertaken? Cicero? Was it to smooth over an unprecedented outrage with soft phrases and the formalities of legal routine? This cannot be supposed. It is proper here to remark that, the Jurors stand blameless, because the charge of the Court prohibited a conviction. Neither will I question the integrity of the Judges, by ascribing to them any but the most correct motives, however fallacious their decisions may be, through which the blood of Gordon has gone unrecognized, and the Constitution of the country unvindicated. That decision has closed the doors of the United States Courts; and the violators of the law have gone back to Lancaster County, to answer the charge of murder, before Juries of their own neighborhood, and the Judges of their own local tribunals. How far Pennsylvania may yet succeed, in wiping from her ancient escutcheon the foul dishonor, I shall not venture to predict. But, it is time, Representatives of Maryland, that you should make it known, by positive measures, that the blood of your constituents shall not be shed by mobs, in the face of the sun, and the Constitution of your fathers, without a justification, or a remedy. You should leave no lawful and constitutional power unused, to bring home to recalcitrant States the force of your displeasure. Although a decided majority of the people of Pennsylvania may be, and doubtless are, in favor of the right; yet, they will be held accountable for the treason and murders perpetrated by their fanatics, whose lawless violence they fail to suppress or punish. No people can plead innocence, who stand by as passive spectators of crimes committed within their jurisdiction. They are bound to enforce the right; else we hold them guilty of the wrong. Let that Commonwealth be distinctly given to understand that, henceforth, words will give place to acts. You owe it to your honor; it is necessary to your peace; it is essential to your domestic security. Heretofore, the cry of "peace, peace, when there is no peace," has had the effect to embolden your assailants; who have learned to believe that your indignant denunciations are more occasional explosions of light wrath, - more elevations of the "son of man safety valve," as they have insultingly termed it. Beware, that your State does not become a mockery! Remember, that of all the bitter curses, which can afflict nations, a border warfare is the most direful. Consider the likelihood of that result,