in a happy course of popular discussion, upon a basis which will secure permanent tranquility. While, therefore, we should express calmly and clearly our opinions as to the issues thus important, freely pronounce and maintain the rights of the States, under the Constitution, against any infraction, we should carefully abstain from the use of language calculated to irritate and inflame those who may differ with us in opinion, or to impair those fraternal ties, which should bind in perpetual unity and concord, the people of these respective States. Let wild and unprincipled fanatics, whose aim, and anger the continuance of the Union, if they will, by ceaseless agitation, make the last vestige of friendly relationship and brotherly regard may be swept away. But let our be the more grateful task, to cast oil on the elements of destruction, and if that dark day shall ever dawn, which shall witness the downfall of this, the most glorious fabric of Government the wisdom of man has ever contrived, no shade of the guilt of so great a calamity, to the cause of freedom throughout the world can be laid at our door.

I have thus submitted for your consideration, such measures as, in my judgment, are necessary and proper for the advancement of the public interests. Permit me in conclusion, to express the hope, that your deliberations may be conducted in a spirit of harmony and patriotism, and may be productive of results, alike honorable to yourselves, and creditable to the State.

T. Watkins Ligon

Executive Department
January 2nd. 1855.

Lawman 8th

The Governor this day granted a pardon to William Thompson, who was convicted at October Term 1854 of the Circuit Court for Frederick County of Larceny and sentenced to be confined in the Penitentiary for three years and six months.

Same day the Governor directed publication of the usual notice of application having been made for the pardon of Martin Coughlin, convicted at August Term 1854 of the Criminal Court of Baltimore County of Manslaughter. Notice sent to Sun and Republican, two papers published in Baltimore City. Case to be considered on or after 28th inst.

Lawman 9th

The Governor assigned Chas. S. Reader Esq Counsel on the part of the State, in State vs Hoffman, pending in the Court of Appeals on Writ of Error from the Circuit Court for Charles County.