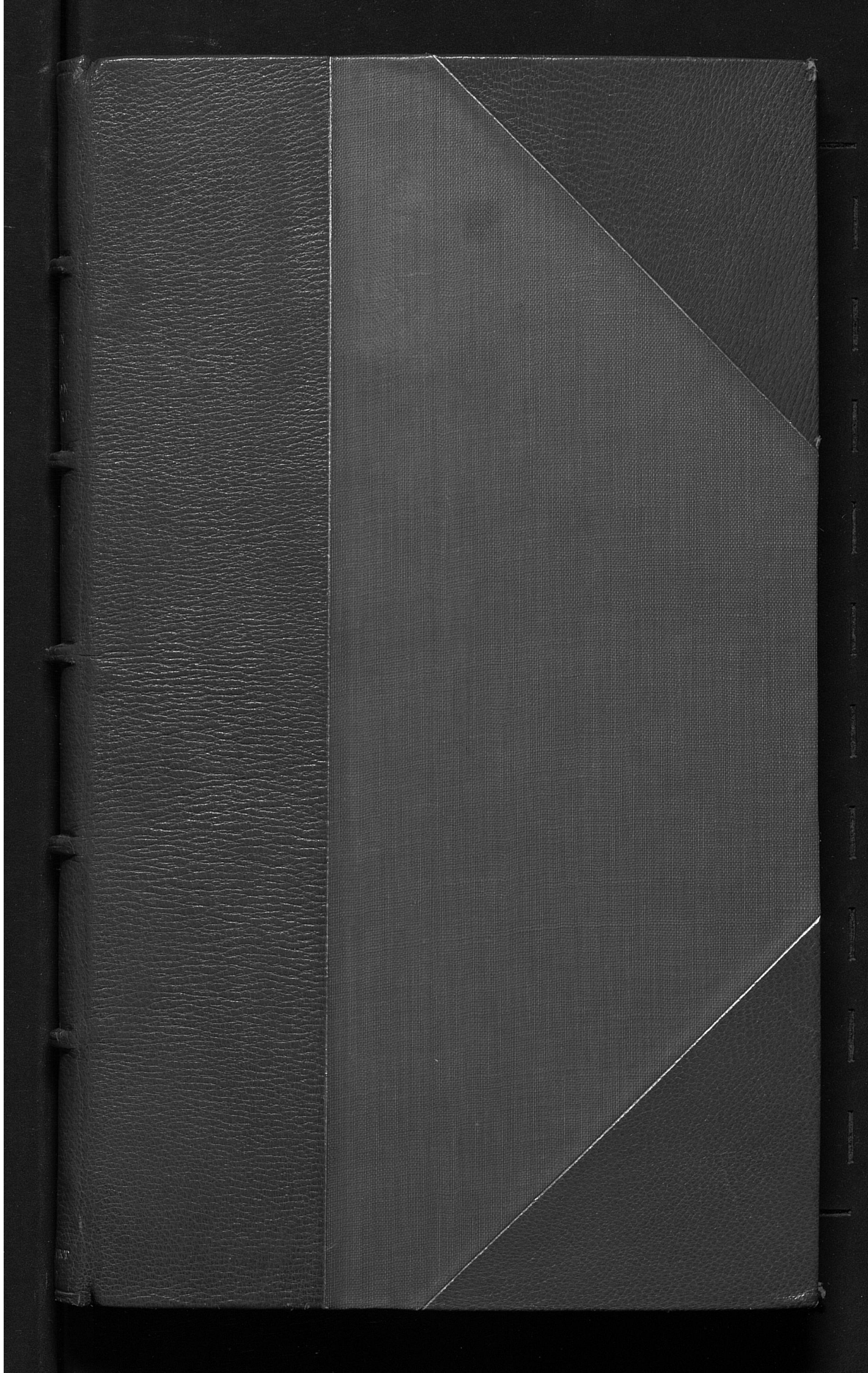
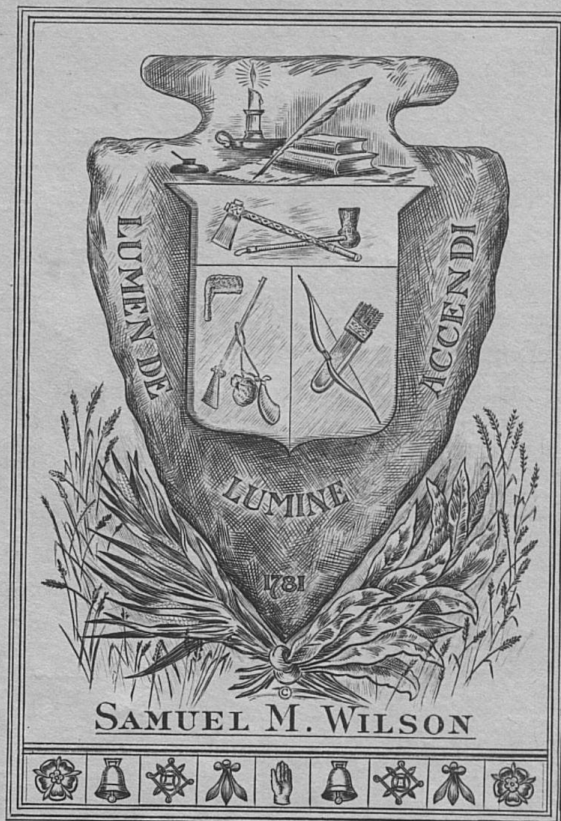






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VINDICATION

OF THE CHARACTER OF THE LATE

COL. SOLOMON P. SHARP,

FROM THE CALUMNIES PUBLISHED AGAINST HIM SINCE HIS MURDER,

BY

PATRICK DARBY

AND

JEROBOAM O. BEAUCHAMP.

BY L. J. SHARP.

FRANKFORT:

PRINTED BY AMOS KENDALL AND COMPANY.

1827.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE public will recollect the charges made against the character of my brother, Col. Solomon P. Sharp, his widow and connections, by Patrick Darby, soon after his murder, and the promise then made by me to vindicate his memory. It was then my intention to perform this sacred duty in the course of a few weeks; but a variety of circumstances have delayed it until this time. Rumors of the murderer's confession, and of its intended publication, led me to suspend this vindication before his execution. After that awful event and the attendant circumstances, rumors of another and different confession which would probably soon be ushered to the world, induced me still to delay, that I might be able to meet all the accusations brought against my brother by his two accusers, Darby and Beauchamp. That production is now before the world; and although it carries upon its face an ample refutation of all its material statements, yet, as the assertions of this man and Darby have made some impression on the minds of strangers who know nothing of their characters and motives, I feel it my duty to submit to the public the ample refutation which I promised.

In performing this duty, I shall not assail the character of any man or set of men, further than is necessary for the development of truth; but from the free use of names and characters, so far as that object makes it necessary, I am not to be deterred by any earthly power. By one man, John U. Waring, whose name must necessarily be used in my narrative, I have already been threatened with death, if I ventured to mention him in connection with my brother's murder. His threats will not induce me to say one word less or more of him than I intended; but, should he choose to execute his avowed intentions, he will find that I have left behind me the certain means of his detection. Wholly resigned to the fate which the friends or accomplices of Beauchamp may have prepared for me, I enter upon the performance of my most sacred duty, with a determination to "*be just and fear not.*"

LEANDER J. SHARP.

CHAPTER I.

Parentage, education, progress and character of Col. Sharp.

SOLOMON P. SHARP was born in the County of Washington, State of Virginia, on the 22d day of August 1787. His father was a soldier of the revolution and fought in the celebrated battle of King's mountain. Solomon was but a few months old when our father removed to the frontiers of Tennessee, where he encountered new dangers in the Indian wars which so long raged throughout the western country.

Raised far from the abodes of polished life, in the midst of dangers, privations and alarms, the education of Solomon was only such as the rudeness of the times afforded. At the age of nineteen he entered upon the practice of the law, and by unwearied application, aided by a clear, discriminating mind, he not only acquired a degree of information seldom equalled by the graduates of our colleges, but rose to eminence in his profession. In his manners he was mild and affable; in the performance of every duty, determined and inflexible. He suffered no passion to drive him into the commission of injustice; nor did he permit any fear of consequences to deter him from doing justice, both in public and private. In morals he was exemplary, and towards females, was always remarked to exhibit a degree of modesty and reserve very uncommon among young men in this age and this country. He was generous and liberal, but never extravagant; he neither encouraged nor mingled in any kind of dissipation, but was forward to promote every meritorious object and useful design. By his honor and punctuality towards his clients, he soon gained a general confidence, and his business accumulated beyond that of almost every other man of his profession.

So great had been his progress in the affections of the people, and such was the confidence reposed in his integrity, that in the years 1810 and 1811, he was elected a member of the Kentucky Legislature from the County of Warren, and performed his duty with such zeal and ability as to ensure him the reward of still higher promotion. During the war, in 1812, he was elected to Congress from the district in which he resided, and served in that capacity four or five sessions in succession.

In the years 1818 and 1819, he was again elected a member of the House of Representatives of Kentucky from the County of Warren, and performed his duties to the entire satisfaction of his constituents.

It was during his service in the Legislature, that he became acquainted with Miss Eliza T. Scott, daughter of the late Doctor

John M. Scott, whom he married on the 17th of December 1818. This connection was the fruit of a most ardent and disinterested attachment on his side, sincerely reciprocated on hers. It brought him nothing but an excellent, amiable and beautiful wife, to whom he remained wholly devoted until the day of his death.

After his marriage, he returned with his lady to Bowlinggreen, in Warren County, and immediately commenced housekeeping. He there continued in the successful practice of his profession and the management of the extensive property which his industry and economy had enabled him to accumulate.

In the year 1821, he became a candidate for the Senate. The elections were to take place on the first Monday in August and the two succeeding days.

On the 1st of June of that year, Governor Adair addressed to him a letter offering him the office of Attorney General for the State of Kentucky, and concluding with the following remarks:

"I need not say to you, that the office has fallen into disrepute in public estimation, and the salary been improperly reduced, more from an eye to the former occupant, than to the office. It is my wish so to fill it at present, that it may be again renovated and take its due stand in the government."

To this letter Col. Sharp replied on the 13th of June, accepting the appointment. His commission was dated June the 18th, and having made preparations to remove his family as soon as the health of Mrs. Sharp would permit, he went to Frankfort himself the latter part of September, to be present at the meeting of the Court of Appeals on the first Monday in October. According to previous arrangements, I went up to Frankfort with his family, and arrived there about the 20th of that month. He immediately took up his residence in the house of Mrs. Scott, the mother of Mrs. Sharp.

When he was nominated to the Senate as Attorney General, certain charges, hereafter to be noticed, were preferred against him; but after an investigation by a committee, he was pronounced guiltless, and his appointment was unanimously confirmed.

After this period, he devoted himself wholly to his profession, his property and his family, until the year 1825. His success was equal to his most sanguine anticipations. His practice in the superior courts held in Frankfort daily became more extensive, and he constantly gained on the affections of his friends and the confidence of society. Three charming children had blessed his union with Miss Scott; it was thought all old enmities had died away, and it seemed that he had nothing before him but a long life of private happiness and public usefulness.

As a proof of his high character at that time, I give the following statements of respectable men, and men high in the confidence of their country.

CHRISTIAN COUNTY, January 1827.

Dear Sir:

Having been called on by you to give my views of the character and standing of the late Col. Solomon P. Sharp, your brother, I can state that I was intimately acquainted with him from his childhood until his death. I lived a neighbor and was well acquainted with his father and the family, and I am conusant to his having received an exemplary moral education, which was verified throughout his life and conduct.

He sustained an excellent moral character, free from most of the vices and foibles common to young men, so far as came within my observation. He appeared sincere in his friendship, generous and hospitable, decent, decorous and forbearing in his deportment to all men, so far as my observation extended; and by his virtues and talents, he had become one of the most popular and distinguished men in the State.

I served with him in the army during the late war, in which he volunteered his services as a private soldier, and was, in the organization of the army, preferred to the command of a battalion in a regiment I had the honor to command, and in no single instance, had I reason to complain; for I always found him prompt, decisive and manly, in executing all orders coming from the commanding General or myself. Nor has any circumstance of his life, to my knowledge or belief, evinced a want of personal or moral courage. I was a member of the Legislature in the Senate of Kentucky that met the 13th of October 1821. I recollect perfectly of meeting Col. Sharp shortly after my arrival in Frankfort, on Saturday evening before the Legislature met, which was on the Monday following, and I recollect seeing and conversing with the Colonel perhaps every day after my arrival until the confirmation of his nomination as Attorney General, which took place on the 30th October 1821.

I was at Col. Sharp's shortly after the meeting of the Legislature, in company with several gentlemen, and was introduced to Mrs. Sharp, Col. Sharp's lady, and to Mrs. Scott, her mother. Col. Sharp's family were then living with Mrs. Scott in Frankfort.

I will state some of the reasons why my recollection serves me on this subject. Col. Sharp had, previous to the meeting of the Legislature, received a *pro tem.* appointment as Attorney General for the State of Kentucky, and of course, his nomination would be laid before the Senate for their approbation or rejection. It was also known, that, previous to the meeting of the Legislature, John U. Waring had caused a publication prejudicial to the moral character of Col. Sharp, in which publication the story of the seduction of Ann Cook, the late Ann Beauchamp, was one of the most prominent charges, and it was believed that Waring

would lay this publication before the Senate, in order to prevent the confirmation of his *pro tem.* appointment. From my intimate knowledge of Col. Sharp's character, and his eminent qualifications and friendly intercourse, he had a right to expect and did rely on me in befriending him on this particular occasion, which caused me to have frequent conversations on that as on many other subjects. The nomination was laid before the Senate on the 24th of October 1821, and was, on the 26th of the same month, committed to a select committee, for the purpose of examining into the truth of the charges, that of the seduction of Ann Cook being one. I conversed with the members of the committee often, and the evidence adduced, perhaps from Col. Bowmar and others, in which they did not spare Mr. Waring's character, by which evidence, strengthened by others, the committee unanimously reported favorably to the confirmation of the Colonel's appointment.

"In Senate, October the 30th, 1821: *Resolved*, That the Senate unanimously advise and consent to the said Col. Sharp's appointment, and that Messrs. Ewing and Gorin acquaint the Governor therewith."

I have thus, sir, given you a small sketch of my knowledge of your brother, and a few transactions relative to his appointment; and in doing this, I have only done what was due from me to his memory. I am not in good health, or I would and could say much more in favor of that amiable man, Col. Solomon P. Sharp, who is no more.

YOUNG EWING.

We, the undersigned subscribers, state, that we have been well acquainted with Col. Solomon P. Sharp, and that his gentlemanly and decorous deportment and moral character as a man and as a citizen, placed him far above all injury in his reputation while he lived, from the false and ridiculous statements made in relation to the seduction of Ann Cook, late Ann Beauchamp, which were not believed so as to injure his reputation or standing in society during his life, but which have been, with increased colouring and heightened malignity, propagated to affect his reputation where he is not known, since his death.

Richard M. Hannum,	M. B. Morton,
William I. Morton,	James Allison,
John Ewing,	Young Ewing,
Daniel M'Goodwin,	John D. Patten,
Charles Robinson,	J. H. Rice,
James Baham,	William Murrell,
Charles Rhice,	James Morehead,
Thomas G. M'Koin,	N. S. Dallam,
James K. M'Goodwin,	Abraham Stites,

John M'Goodwin,
Jeremiah C. Wilkins,
Payton L. Parish,

James Bradley,
John Burgess,
B. Greenfield.

January 12th, 1827.

The subjoined statements are from *Gen. S. Caldwell* and the
Hon. Benjamin Shackelford.

Col. Solomon P. Sharp was raised immediately in my neighborhood, from a child until he went into the practice of the law; we then practised law together for several years, and I viewed him as a gentleman, and especially so, as respected any kind of seduction or ill treatment towards females.

SAMUEL CALDWELL.

HOPKINSVILLE, January 22d, 1827.

Sir:

In compliance with your request, I with pleasure state, that I was acquainted with Col. S. P. Sharp many years while he practised law in the Green river country, and in justice to his memory feel no hesitation to say, that from my knowledge of him, I think his moral character was as good as that of any man.

Yours respectfully,

B. SHACKLEFORD.

A. M. SHARP, Esq.

HOPKINSVILLE, January 27th, 1827.

Dear Sir:

In obedience to your request, I state, that I was a member of the Legislature of Kentucky in the year 1821; that I arrived at Frankfort, as well as I recollect, on Tuesday, the Legislature having convened the day before. Having been intimately acquainted with your brother, the late Col. Solomon P. Sharp, for many years previous thereto, I met with him on the first day of my arrival, and to the best of my recollection, I saw Col. Sharp in Frankfort during the whole of the session of the Legislature in said year. The following circumstances induced me to believe Col. Sharp was not absent at any time during the session of 1821. A short time after my arrival in Frankfort, I was informed that Col. Sharp had received a *pro tem.* appointment as Attorney General for the State of Kentucky, and I was informed that his nomination would be laid before the Senate at an early part of the session. I likewise was informed, that one John U. Waring had published a handbill prejudicial to the moral character of Col.

Sharp, and that the story of the seduction of Ann Cook, late Ann Beauchamp, was one of the most prominent charges contained in said handbill. To the best of my knowledge, I never read said handbill; but it was expected that said handbill would be laid before the Senate, with a view of preventing the Senate from the confirmation of said nomination. I, feeling a warm attachment for Col. Sharp, was interested in his success in said appointment. I made some inquiry into the matter, and was informed the charges had been made against Col. Sharp in the Senate. Therefore, I was informed the nomination was referred to a committee, and after a full, fair and minute examination into all the charges preferred against Col. Sharp, the Senate honorably acquitted him from said charges, by unanimously concurring in his nomination. I, with many others of the members of that session, solicited Col. Sharp to suffer his name to be used as a candidate for the presidency of the Bank of Kentucky. I well recollect of frequently seeing Col. Sharp and conversing with him on divers subjects, about the time the election of the President of said Bank took place, which was near the close of said session.

I can say, sir, from my long acquaintance with your brother, Solomon P. Sharp, his virtues, as well as his talents, were deservedly admired and esteemed by his acquaintances, and there was no circumstance of his life which came within my knowledge, that evinced any want of moral courage. I would further add, as respected the celebrated and boasted story, (of his enemies,) the seduction of Ann Cook, if understood by others as it has always, even by his most violent enemies, been represented to me, it deserves but little notice; for they always admitted that she was a girl of good mind, having on her side 35 or 40 years experience, surrounded by wealthy connections, and a full knowledge of Col. Sharp being a married man and living in perfect peace and harmony with his family in the same town.

I am, respectfully, yours, &c.

JAMES C. CRAVENS.

F. C. SHARP, Esq.

We, the undersigned citizens of Bowlinggreen and vicinity, having been acquainted with the late Col. Solomon P. Sharp, who resided as our neighbor for many years, feel it our duty to express our contempt for the slanderous, insidious, false and malicious rumors, calculated to stain the character and memory of our much lamented fellow citizen, that have been circulated through the medium of the presses in this State, charging him with *seduction* and other crimes. From a knowledge of many of the circumstances under which these rumors took place, and of his upright, correct and moral deportment, we feel it a duty we owe to ourselves, to his friends, and to the *world*, to bear testimony to our

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total disbelief of the slanders, and our admiration of his correct, moral, honest, honorable and dignified deportment.

E. M. Covington,	J. Vanmeter,
A. Larsh,	John S. Lucas,
James B. Sterett,	John Maxey,
Joseph Rees,	James R. Parker,
P. Doneldson,	W. H. Rochester,
James T. Morehead,	R. W. Lucas,
Charles Campbell,	Robert O. Hendricks,
John Keel,	Samuel S. Brooking,
James Keel,	Thomas Sterett,
Eli Barkley,	James M. Blakey.
F. Bettersworth,	

February 15th, 1826.

I add the testimony of the *Rev. Silas M. Noel*, D. D. and the *Rev. Gideon Blackburn*, D. D. with whom my brother was on terms of the most friendly intercourse. The following letters were addressed to Mrs. Sharp:

OAKLEY, 28th March 1827.

Dear Madam:

Were testimony needful, to repel that very surprising imputation on the memory of our much esteemed friend and fellow citizen, (the late Col. S. P. Sharp,) which attributes to him sentiments sceptical or deistical, the appeal might not be made to his personal friends; for I am persuaded, among those who knew him, there is scarcely an enemy vindictive and malignant enough to deny him this tribute, which truth and justice imperiously demand. Detraction so barefaced and daring, is not the offspring of ordinary spleen, even in factious times. It argues that depravity and malignity which death cannot destroy—that ruthless and fiend-like spirit which can fearlessly invade the sanctity of the tomb and stab afresh the *murdered dead*.

In that community where Col. Sharp resided, he needed no commendation either from friends or foes. His talents and virtues had given him the most enviable ascendancy in the affections of his countrymen, who delighted to cherish the fondest regard for his exalted worth. Those catch-penny scribblers, (in other States,) whose interest it is to make out *a good story*, have over-reached themselves, in attributing to him the impurities of infidelity. The free and unreserved manner in which he was accustomed to express his belief in the divine authenticity of the Holy Scriptures and his admiration of the principles they inculcate, together with his profound veneration for the Christian religion, as a system of practical truth, calculated pre-eminently to purify the heart and to renovate the world, will ever protect his memory from an imputation so unmerited and misapplied.

Allow me, madam, the pleasure of tendering you for myself, (and I might say for those with whom I am associated in a society way,) assurances of high regard for the public and private character of your deceased husband, and a fervent desire that the unparalleled deed which forced him from the bosom of his family and country, may work for you "a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

Yours most sincerely,

S. M. NOEL.

LOUISVILLE, March 22d, 1827.

My dear friend:

I have long tenderly sympathised with you under the deep afflictions you have been called to experience. They are certainly such as must have brought you to a Throne of Grace and to the heart of a Friend, who is the affectionate husband of the afflicted widow. That any human being should be found *base enough* to inflict unnecessary wounds, is a mark of great depravity. My acquaintance with Col. Sharp was pretty intimate for nearly two years, and his character was familiar for several years. I considered him a gentleman of talents, politeness, probity and honor, strictly moral and respectful to religion, so far as his conduct came under my notice. His sentiments respecting the authenticity of the Christian Scriptures, and of all the important and essential doctrines of the Christian religion, were matter of frequent conversation between us, in hours of social intercourse, while I was entertained under his friendly roof; and I can most unequivocally state, that he not only professed a firm belief in the Christian religion, but a peculiarly *accurate* and *correct* knowledge of its leading doctrines and precepts, and seemed to feel a sacred veneration for all its claims; and further, that I had strong evidence, from the tenor of his conversation, that his conscience was deeply affected with the necessity of his own *personal* interest in the concerns of religion.

I feel pretty certain, that his views and feelings were as candidly developed to me as to any other man, from the cordial friendship which subsisted between us, and the unreserved confidence he appeared to repose in me. After a sermon I had preached in Frankfort on the authenticity of the Bible, he remarked, that he thought the evidence in favor of the Bible was so clear, that no good man ought to oppose it, and that the benevolent tendency of the Gospel and its moralizing effect on mankind, were fully sufficient to shew that God was its author. He indeed seemed to me to have a perfect *abhorrence* of infidelity. Col. Sharp had a refined understanding, and could not yield his assent to the inconsistent dogmas of sectarists, who were more solicitous to make proselytes, than to lead souls in the highway of holiness; but to

a clear display of the Gospel in its symmetry and connections, he yielded the most explicit consent.

This, my dear friend, I consider but a just tribute to the memory of my respected friend, who, I much regret, was hurried so wantonly to an untimely grave by unfeeling and bloody hands. Whatever might have been the cause of that horrid deed, it is in my view unjust to brand his memory with the charge of infidelity, if by it be meant the denial of the truth of the Bible or of the leading doctrines of Christianity.

I hope these very severe trials will purify you, like gold passing through the furnace, and lead you at last to rest comfortably in the bosom of the Redeemer, where "the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest."

Yours in bonds of affection,

GIDEON BLACKBURN.

Mrs. ELIZA T. SHARP;

CHAPTER II.

Ann Cook, afterwards Ann Beauchamp—origin of the story relative to the seduction of Ann Cook—John U. Waring.

When Col. Sharp took his lady to Bowlinggreen, after marriage, Ann Cook was living with her brother, John W. Cook, who then kept a boarding house in that place. She was then, according to the most accurate information I can obtain, 33 or 34 years old. She was small in stature, probably not exceeding 90 pounds in weight, had dark hair and eyes, dark skin inclined to sallow, a large forehead, slender nose, large mouth, low chin, face tapering downwards, had lost her fore teeth, was stoop shouldered, and in no way a handsome or desirable woman. Her tone of voice appeared to be affected even to childishness, and she was remarkably frivolous in her conversation. Vivacity, often amounting to frivolity, was her only recommendation. She had read considerable, especially of Novels, and delighted to converse upon scenes of romance and fiction. Of moral and religious principles, she was wholly destitute. She was an avowed disciple of Mary Woolstoncraft, and scoffed at the institutions of society, especially matrimony. She believed in no future state of existence, and declared, that in her opinion, mankind are brought into being with an entire right to dispose of their persons and lives as they please. The whole Christian system she denounced as a fraud on mankind, propagated and sustained by cunning and priestcraft. Having been acquainted with her at least twelve years before the

birth of her illegitimate child, I knew her principles well, so far at least as they were developed in her conversations.

At the time alluded to, she was in the habit of visiting many of the most respectable families in Bowlinggreen. The house of Col. Sharp being near that of her brother, she frequently called on Mrs. Sharp. At that time, Mrs. Sharp was seriously impressed on the subject of religion, and found nothing in the conversation of Ann Cook, which could, in any degree, make her society agreeable. On the contrary, her visitant became, from her extreme frivolity, not only unacceptable, but often disgusting. There never was any intimacy or any degree of confidence between them. But she was tolerated on account of her relatives and connections, who were among the most respectable in that section of the country.

Nothing was publicly known of the private habits of this woman until the summer of 1820, when her shame became notorious by her pregnancy. Of this child, she declared that Col. Sharp was the father! At the time this alleged seduction must have taken place, he had been married to a beautiful and amiable woman, whom he tenderly loved, not one year! Such a thing is not probable—nay, it is hardly possible. The heart cannot be so soon estranged from a lovely object on which it has placed all its affections. Mrs. Sharp was far the superior of Ann Cook, in youth, intelligence, personal charms, and every genteel accomplishment. That Col. Sharp could so soon forget the young wife of his bosom, not then 20 years old, to associate with a frivolous, waning flirt of 35, who had nothing but forwardness and pertness to recommend her, is wholly incredible! It is more likely, that Ann Cook wished to give importance to herself by connecting her infamy with a man whom society held in the highest estimation; or with that jealousy and malice which the female bosom sometimes cherishes, she may have desired to involve in her ruin, the hopes and happiness of the more accomplished Mrs. Sharp, whose good fortune she had so much room to envy.

The sensation produced in my brother's family was one of deep mortification, notwithstanding they never entertained a moment's doubt of his innocence. They were satisfied, that he was selected by an unprincipled and shameless woman, as one whose spotless character and high standing would afford her some apology for the surrender of that virtue which subsequent information fully proved she had long ceased to possess.

Facts within the personal knowledge of Mrs. Sharp, satisfied her of the foulness of the charge, and of her husband's innocence. Ann Cook was specific as to the time when the criminal act was committed. She said it was on a particular Sunday, September the 18th, 1819; that Mrs. Sharp had gone to meeting; that she went into Col. Sharp's office and found him alone, &c. In relation

to that day, there were many events which brought it more fully to the recollection of Col. Sharp's family than almost any other day in the calendar, as if Heaven had so ordered it, as to detect the vile imposture. It was the Sabbath before the birth of Mrs. Sharp's first child; and Mrs. Sharp's mother, Mrs. Scott, had gone down to attend her in her sickness. Col. Sharp on that day went to meeting with Mrs. Sharp and Mrs. Scott, which was held in an unfinished room belonging to the Messrs. Keels. The room was so crowded that Col. Sharp and Col. Johnson had to take seats upon the Clerk's desk or table, where they were conspicuous to the whole congregation. Col. Johnson stated last summer, that he perfectly well recollected sitting there with Col. Sharp during the sermon. When service was over, Col. Sharp invited Mr. Lapsley, the preacher, to dine with him. After dinner, Col. Sharp read to Mrs. Scott the Cumberland Presbyterian Confession of Faith, in which he was occupied until night. The next morning he started to Glasgow, to attend the Barren Circuit Court, in company with Col. Johnson. Those who knew these facts were at once satisfied of the falsehood of the charge, and of Col. Sharp's innocence. A man who is now dead, afterwards stated, that he had seen Ann Cook in the act of criminal intercourse with another individual, *on that very day.*

This scandalous charge against Col. Sharp created a great deal of conversation, and was followed by a variety of rumors, that Ann Cook had, for many years, been guilty of shameless prostitution. It was stated, that a young man named Reavis, who had formerly lived in the house of John W. Cook and had then gone to Missouri, had some direct knowledge of her habits. Mr. John Keel and John W. Cook both wrote to this young man, and both received answers, the substance of which was, that he had seen enough with his own eyes to convince him of Ann Cook's loose character. He even named the guilty person; but it is not necessary to my purpose to be more explicit. Mr. Keel voluntarily put the answer he received into the hands of my brother; and Mr. Cook was so well satisfied of his sister's lewd conduct, that he often expressed to me his regret that he had for a moment entertained an ill feeling towards Col. Sharp. From that time till the day of his death, he expressed the highest regard for him, and employed him in all his law business. Ann Cook's relatives generally remained his fast friends, employed him in their law business, and often expressed their entire conviction of his innocence.

The following is a copy of Reavis' letter to Mr. Keel:

BOONVILLE, August 18th, 1820.

Dear Sir:

After my respects to you, I will inform you what I know of the report in circulation in your place concerning Miss Ann Cook.

In 1817, and whilst I boarded with J. Cook, I was engaged with a wagon and team, which I hired of him. I went to feed them at a late hour in the night. After I had done feeding them, I returned to the house; but as I drew near to the door, I perceived it to be shut; but went on to the door; but before I put my hand on the latch, it was pulled about half open, when I perceived it to be Miss Ann Cook. I then stopped and gave her the door. As she passed me she spoke these words, "*there is nobody there.*" I made her no answer. I then pushed the door open, when I saw a man standing against the partition. As I passed him I recognized him as well as I could by the reflection of the moon, and thought, from the stature and dress, it was ——— or ———. This sir, is true, as far as my recollection serves me at this time.

With due respect, your friend,

ANDERSON REAVIS.

P. S. Sir, you will do me a great kindness if you will write to me who it was that reported that I saw ——— and Ann Cook in a carnal connection with each other, and the words which he stated that I should have said. I will inform you the reason I did not answer your letter sooner than I did, as it was owing to my living at a distance from the Post Office, and could see no opportunity until now.

ANDERSON REAVIS.

It was probably a disclosure of this information by J. W. Cook to his sister, which drew from her a full acknowledgment of her falsehood in charging her child to Col. Sharp; and a partial development of some of her amours. On the death of John W. Cook, Doct. Payne administered on his estate, and found among his papers a letter from Ann Cook to him, which is described in the following extract:

MOUNTSTERLING, 9th Sept. 1826.

Doct. Sharp:

Dear sir, I received, on last evening, a letter requesting me, in substance, to state what I understood as to the person who wrote the letter found by Doct. Payne with the papers of John W. Cook. I answer, that I explicitly understood Doct. Payne, that after the death of John W. Cook, the brother of Ann Cook, late Mrs. Beauchamp, he, Dr. Payne, administered on the estate of J. W. Cook; and that he found, upon examination of the papers of the deceased, a letter written by Ann Cook to her brother, John W. Cook, explaining fully the circumstances of her seduction, naming the guilty person and entirely exonerating Col. S. P. Sharp. The guilty person was named to me by Dr. Payne. I requested Dr. Payne to permit me to name the whole circumstance to Col. Sharp, which he very promptly granted me. I did

so, and Col. Sharp named the person said to be her seducer, before I named him.

It might be enquired, how I came to be so intimate with Dr. Payne, to receive all this information. I answer, that Dr. Payne was in my employment 2 or 3 years, I think in 1809, 10 and 11; that he is a second or third cousin to my wife; that Ann Cook, late Mrs. Beauchamp, was also second or third cousin to my wife, and Dr. Payne and Ann Cook were own cousins; that in the year 1814 or 15 she paid a visit to her relations in this section of the country; that she was at my house and remained with us 2 or 3 days, it being the first and last time I ever saw her. I, therefore, felt interested in making some inquiry concerning her. I then for the first time learned from Dr. Payne, that she was married. I never saw her husband that I know of. Although Dr. Payne may feel some delicacy about giving a certificate upon this subject, yet, from my long and intimate acquaintance with him, and knowing him to be a gentleman of honor and veracity, I do not feel the least hesitation in saying, that he will pronounce all I have said upon this subject as coming from him, *substantially true*.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. HARRISON.

P. S. Notwithstanding the misfortunes of Mrs. Beauchamp, I am not at all too *proud* to acknowledge her the relation of my wife and children, when truth is to be elicited in favor of the dead, and the distressed widow and orphans.

M. H.

In addition to this, she was frequently heard to say, that Col. Sharp had done her no injury, as is proved by several statements in my possession, one of which is as follows:

"In a conversation with Ann Beauchamp, wife of J. O. Beauchamp, I recollect distinctly to have heard her say, when speaking of Col. S. P. Sharp, that he had never injured her, and that she had no harm against him; but that Dr. Sharp had spoken disrespectfully of her, and she showed great hostility against him. Given under my hand this 1st day of August 1826.

RICHARD HOLLIWAY."

Explicit proof that she had been caught with another man, and her own confession, would seem sufficient to satisfy all mankind, that the charge made against my brother, was entirely false. But of her loose and profligate character, I have other evidence of the most conclusive kind.

Gen. Covington told me, he was satisfied she had been in the habit of illicit intercourse with men *for ten years*, and that his lady had long before prohibited her visiting at his house.

The most shameless incident of this woman's profligate life, was accidentally witnessed by the wife of the Hon. Francis Johnson.

The circumstances of her conduct are too indelicate to mention in connection with a lady's name. It occurred years before the birth of her illegitimate child; but respect for the family of Ann Cook induced the greatest secrecy, with regard to her disgraceful conduct, until her shame became apparent to the world. To some of her female acquaintances, Mrs. Johnson then made known the effrontery with which Ann Cook, years before, had made visits to her at her own house, for the purpose of accomplishing her assignations with a young man who resided in the family, and of the frontless impudence which led to her detection.

John W. Covington and Isaac C. Covington both told me, that a gentleman of undoubted veracity had informed them, that he had caught her in the criminal act with a man by him named, several years before.

Many other instances, equally atrocious, came to light, of her intercourse with numerous individuals, one of whom, a mechanic then living in Bowlinggreen, often declared, that he was much more likely to be the father of her child than Col. Sharp. I would name individuals, were it proper, who kept her as a mistress, before the birth of her illegitimate child. Indeed, although I had heard much before, I had no conception of the extent of her prostitution, until since her husband was charged with my brother's murder. But for the malice with which every person has been pursued who has dared to give his name to the public in vindication of Col. Sharp's reputation, I could have procured affidavits proving every fact I have stated, and many more.

In further confirmation of Ann Beauchamp's character before the birth of her illegitimate child, I insert the following statements:

"The undersigned states, that he lived some time in the house of J. W. Cook, when he kept a tavern in Bowlinggreen; that he knew Ann Cook, since the wife of J. O. B——p, and that from what he witnessed of her conduct at different times with men, he feels no hesitation in saying that she was a base woman. This was several years before she charged Col. Sharp with her tale of scandal.

WADE H. M'FADDIN.

Teste—C. G. Cox.

28th August 1826."

The undersigned lived in Bowlinggreen a number of years, and was well acquainted with Ann Cook. He lived at her brother's tavern, when she lived there; that from her conduct for several years before the fabrication of the slander against Col. Sharp, he considered her a woman without virtue or female chastity. This was the opinion of many of the young men that lived in and about the tavern, and he always believed the fabrication of C.

the tale on Col. Sharp, was to give consequence to her shame. She must have been 35 years of age at the time.

D. TURNEY.

August 28th, 1826.

She was in the constant habit of walking out alone into the forests and fields adjacent to the town, under pretence of searching for herbs and flowers; and when reminded of its impropriety by any of her female acquaintances, and of the remarks to which it might give occasion, she declared she cared not what was said—that people would always find something to talk about. When her real character became publicly known, the object of these solitary walks was no longer doubtful.

Her illegitimate child was born in June 1820. It was still born. Col. Sharp rested his vindication on his own irreproachable character, the improbability of the story at that particular period of his life, and Ann Cook's infamy of character, which then became known to the world. Subsequently, he was put in possession of the letter to Mr. Keel, already inserted, which confirmed the rumors already afloat. But he always avowed, that he never had, until this event, heard any thing in disparagement of the character of Ann Cook. His frequent absence on the circuit of the courts which he attended, and his constant application to business when at home, left him no time to seek the society of the giddy and thoughtless, or to mingle with those who made female frailty their jest.

The charge was fast sinking into oblivion, as its maker was into the infamy she merited, when it was revived and thrown into more extensive circulation in 1821, for the purpose of gratifying personal malignity in the destruction of my brother's public and private character. The person who undertook this work of detraction was John U. Waring.

This man had long been celebrated as one of the most malignant and dangerous men that ever lived. He often takes up a dislike to an individual without the least cause, and pursues him with the most persevering vengeance. Nothing delights him more than to provoke his enemy, by insulting language, to strike him, while he holds himself ready at the instant, with a knife or dirk, to stab him in return. In this manner he has stabbed six or seven men, of which he makes a boast. Formerly, he lived in Versailles; but his conduct became so outrageous, that the whole town rose upon him as one man, and ordered him to leave Woodford County at the peril of his life. He prepared himself with a variety of fire-arms and other weapons, to defend his own house; but seeing a determined spirit among the people to pull it down over his head and put him to death, he agreed to comply with their command, if they would suffer him to return in time of Court to wind up

his business. This privilege was granted, and he soon after took up his residence in Warren County. On his subsequent visits to Woodford, during the terms of the Circuit Court, he stabbed one or two men, and once would have been torn in pieces had he not made a quick escape.

Waring was a man who speculated in all sorts of claims, and soon after he settled in Warren County, he found the talents and industry of my brother very inconvenient to him. It was not, therefore, long before he marked him out as his enemy, if not his victim. The following letter is a good sample of the general character and conduct of the man.

BOWLINGGREEN, February 12th, 1821.

Dear Sir:

I have been just saluted with a writ in the name of Thomas Green, yourself the attorney, and have examined your declaration. During an attempt hitherto to make me responsible for this money, you, I presume, came to the knowledge, that previous to the sale made by Owings, the Constable, Green had conveyed all his claim, possession and interest in the printing establishment to Gaster, and that Gaster had conveyed to Col. Johnson. The execution which Owings had was in the officer's hands and binding the property previous to the sale to Gaster and Johnson, and of course had to be satisfied. Thus the right to sue existed only with Col. Johnson, (if that right was alive in any one,) and his receipt for the balance has ever been ready, and the money was ready for the satisfaction of the execution, and that known to Owings.

I also presume you are fully apprized, that there never was any ground of suit upon the merits of the case, either in Green, Owings or Johnson, as I permitted Owings to sue again at his request to avoid responsibility, the property being subject and capable of severance. I also presume you are apprized, that I hold Tom Green's bill of sale and warranty for the girl, Anne, at the purchase price of \$350, for which Green, Owings and yourself have brought an action of detinue against Qutionberry, upon the plea of infancy. I paid silver dollars for her. Of these facts I presume you have full knowledge, as they have been in Court, and perhaps yourself, a party as well as an eye witness. There are other claims I have against this fellow, more than sufficient to set off this claim, even admitting it to its fullest pretended extent. It is at all times disagreeable to be harrassed at law by a vagrant or a person in whom there is no legal responsibility. I do assure you, sir, I have no disposition, no wish to come to an open rupture with you or any other; nor have I any inclination to be troubled with you in any way. I wish you to understand from me, that, *if it is ne-*

cessary, efficient means will be taken to put all suits, both for and against me, in the hands of some other person than yourself.

Yours,

J. U. WARING.

My brother could understand, and did understand the last sentence in this letter, only as a threat against his life. It never caused him to deviate a hair's breadth to the right or to the left, from the course which his duty as a man and a lawyer prescribed. In consequence of his inflexible course, he subsequently received the following letter:

BOWLINGGREEN, June 1st, 1821.

I am sorry to be under the necessity of informing you, that Mr. M'Faddin has informed me of the manner in which you spoke of me the other day to him and in his neighborhood. Mr. Hampton also informed me of the manner in which Leander J. Sharp spoke of me at his house a few days since. Now, sir, once for all, I tell you, your mouths shall be stopped. At a proper time and in a proper place, I will corporeally punish each of you for what you have already done. Presume not from my forbearance, that it will be permitted. My friends advise me to let each of you run until after the election, lest you shall be able to raise the yell of persecution. This, together with a determination not to engage in personal controversy, if possible to be avoided, has restrained me heretofore. But each of you shall now stop, or even these considerations will not be sufficient to protect either of you. Neither of you are henceforth to call my name, much less speak of me, until you shall evince to me that you are worthy of that privilege.

I now, sir, inform you, that I am prepared, and will in a short time, make a full and public disclosure of a part of your public conduct. Among other things, your Chickasaw town project to defraud the soldiers of the revolution of the price of their blood and the toils of a seven years' war. Prepare to meet the charge; justify yourself if you can, or sink into political infamy. To this last step, I am led by a sense of my duty to the community; not from personal ill will or by party purposes. I am no partizan of any set of men, nor have I ever been.

J. U. WARING.

The charges above alluded to, are the same which appeared in a handbill a few days afterwards, and were investigated and pronounced to be unfounded by the Senate, at the next session of the Legislature. The *partizan* character which Waring here disclaims, has always been the most prominent trait in all his public conduct.

Col. Sharp was in the Court-house when he received this letter, or another like it, and word was brought to him, that Waring was in the street, completely armed, swearing that he would take vengeance on him when he came out. Some of my brother's friends advised him not to go out, fearing that Waring would execute his threats. Mrs. Sharp was informed of Waring's threats, and her apprehensions were so great, that she went out into the street, in sight of the Court-house, to watch for her husband's return. He came out, passed within a few steps of Waring, who did not molest him, met his wife with the utmost cheerfulness, and even laughed at her apprehensions.

Col. Sharp was then a candidate for the Senate of Kentucky, and Waring had ransacked the country and its records to find the means by which he could ruin his character and prevent his election. On the 8th of June, he came out in a handbill signed with his own name, in which he charged my brother with much misconduct, and particularly with an attempt to defraud the public out of some of her lands. It was this charge and the others contained in that handbill, which he subsequently laid before the Senate, and had the mortification to see them all refused, exploded and disregarded, after a careful examination by a committee.

Ann Cook's illegitimate child was born about a year before the publication of this handbill. The charge of being its father, which she had made against Col. Sharp, was generally disbelieved and fast hastening to oblivion. But Waring did not fail to avail himself of it in this attack. The manner in which he spoke of it, will be seen by the following extract from his handbill, viz.

"You, sir, have been a Colonel in the militia for many years, and
 "I am informed, never, during all that time, appeared at the head
 "of your Regiment more than once or twice with a sword,—yet,
 "in the town of Bowlinggreen, at a *wedding*, on a Sabbath evening,
 "in the Spring of 1821, at the house of your particular friend,
 "where there was a large and respectable company, you appear-
 "ed armed cap-a-pie, with your red belt and glittering sword
 "hanging by your side. Will you, sir, tell us what this meant?
 "Was it sheer ostentation, or did you wear it under the apprehen-
 "sion that you might meet with some of the relations of * * *
 " * * *, [Ann Cook,] in whose bosom this marriage scene might,
 "when connected with your presence, excite indignant feelings
 "and bring down upon your devoted head the punishment you so
 "richly deserve at their hands, for having corrupted the blood of
 "purity, stabbed the best hopes of a fond and widowed mother,
 "cast into infamy and expelled from society a respectable woman,
 "and shrouded a whole family in mourning? Sir, long have we
 "been amazed at the tacit submission of the relations of this young
 "lady, and the torpid forbearance of this injured family.

"Your only pretence at apology for this unhallowed act, has been, your previous knowledge of the ill fame of this unfortunate young woman, until the very hour of disclosure. The child is dead; but its mother and yourself live the monuments of human weakness and human depravity."

No man, probably, better knew the real character of Ann Cook than Waring. He, therefore, knew the ground of my brother's justification. There is no truth in the assertion that he rested his defence on his "*previous knowledge of her ill fame.*" He uniformly declared, that he knew nothing of her "ill fame" until after she was known to be pregnant. If Waring's amazement at the forbearance of Ann Cook's relations was not all feigned, here was an evident effort to stimulate them to vengeance, and perhaps it was through them that he intended, according to his first letter, "*to put all suits, both for and against him, in the hands of some other person.*" But those relations were already satisfied of Ann Cook's character and my brother's innocence, and instead of seeking for vengeance upon him, were retaining him in their business and bestowing on him marks of confidence and friendship.

With the most malignant industry, Waring circulated his handbill over the whole country, determined to destroy the character of a man whom he could not intimidate. Where the author was unknown, the impression they produced was doubtless unfavorable; but where the fact was otherwise, they were entirely harmless. Protected by conscious innocence, and knowing that he was already acquitted by the respectable relations of Ann Cook and the whole society in which he moved, my brother did not reply to the charges contained in this publication. He did not wish further to wound the feelings of that woman's relations, and he trusted to the purity of his life and the mildness of his demeanor, to acquit him before the world.

Waring has often boasted, that he drove Col. Sharp from the political theatre and compelled him to remove from Bowlinggreen, by this publication. I must deprive him of the malignant gratification afforded by this reflection. His handbill was published on the 3th of June 1821. The letter offering my brother the office of Attorney General, was dated on the first of the same month, in which Governor Adair says, "*Having been informed, some time since, that you would accept this appointment and remove to this place, I have thought it my duty to address you this note,*" &c.

It hence appears, that *some time before* the first of June, he had determined to remove to Frankfort, if he got this appointment, and therefore it was not Waring's handbill, published on the 3th of that month, which produced this determination.

I know not that my brother had any intercourse with Waring, or was further molested by him, after his removal to Frankfort. At the time of his murder, Waring was confined in Lexington

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with a severe wound from a rifle shot, which he had received some time before in open day from a man whom he had formerly stabbed in Versailles. On hearing of the murder, I am told he remarked, that it was fortunate for him that he was confined; for otherwise he would certainly have been suspected. Since the murder, he has exhibited his malice, by proclaiming every where, that my brother deserved death, and he only blamed Beauchamp for the manner in which he inflicted it! With the publication of Mrs. Sharp, which named him in terms not very respectful, he was much inflamed, and threatened heavy vengeance against all who aided her in it, and especially myself. By many threats, so uttered that he knew they would be conveyed to me, he has also endeavored to deter me from vindicating the memory of my murdered brother, knowing that he must figure not very advantageously in the narrative.

In further confirmation of some of the statements made in this chapter, I annex the following, from ladies of high standing:

Christian County, March 8th, 1827.

I was acquainted with Ann Cook, late Ann Beauchamp, in Fairfax County, Virginia. To the best of my remembrance, I first knew her in 1803; I then understood she was about nineteen years old.

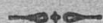
FANNY BRADSHAW.

I knew Ann Cook, late Ann Beauchamp, in the year 1805, in Fairfax County, Virginia. She was then a woman grown; I suppose twenty years old.

FRANCES SUMMERS.

About twenty-four years ago, in the State of Virginia, in Fairfax County, I was acquainted with Ann Cook, since Ann Beauchamp; she was, at the time of this acquaintance, about sixteen or seventeen years of age, which would make her about forty or forty-one at the time of her death.

ANN RUMSEY.



CHAPTER III.

Jeroboam O. Beauchamp—his marriage with Ann Cook.

AT the time my brother, Col. Sharp, removed from Bowling-green to Frankfort, in the Fall of 1821, J. O. Beauchamp was reading law in the former place. He was then about eighteen years old, was inattentive to his studies, wild, unprincipled and profligate. He was barely known to Col. Sharp; but there was

no long or intimate acquaintance between them. He was not a student of my brother, as has been asserted in distant papers, nor was there any intercourse of friendship or business between them. I remained in Bowlinggreen some time after Col. Sharp's family left that country. After Beauchamp was admitted to the practice, he solicited me to put into his hands some of my brother's business in that section of the country, and I gave him one or more notes for collection. The time when he was employed in this business is fully established by the following statements:

"State of Kentucky, Simpson County Sct.

I, John L. Moore, Clerk of the Simpson Circuit Court, do certify, that J. O. Beauchamp, as attorney at law, did attend to and prosecute a suit for Col. Solomon P. Sharp plaintiff against M. Clark defendant, in this Court; that said suit was brought on the 12th March 1823, by said Beauchamp, as attorney aforesaid, prosecuted by him to a judgment at the April term 1823, and the business attended to by said Beauchamp, attorney for said Sharp, until the money was collected some time in the latter part of the year 1823. The defendant replevied on the 21st of June 1823, and the second execution, upon which the money was collected, issued on the 3d of October 1823. Given under my hand, this 13th day of January 1827.

JOHN L. MOORE, *Clk.*"

"Simpson County, to wit.

I, acting in the character of Sheriff of Simpson County, collected the money in the case within named, and paid the same over to J. O. Beauchamp, attorney for Col. Sharp, or to the order of said Beauchamp, attorney as aforesaid. I do further add, that during the pendency of the collection of the within money, J. O. Beauchamp frequently applied to me to urge the collection, and stated as a reason why he wished it done expeditiously, *that he wished to obtain the further patronage of Col. Sharp.* Given under my hand, this 13th day of January 1827.

THOMAS L. STRATTON."

The following letter will shew with what zeal young Beauchamp pushed this business:

BOWLINGGREEN, Oct. 19th, 1823.

Capt. Moore: Dear Sir,

In S. P. Sharp *vs.* Micajah Clark, there is a replevin bond with Bullock security. I once or twice applied to have execution issued thereon. If through your complication of business, you have not issued it, do so as soon as possible, as I am urged to make the money. If the money shall be made, take it upon yourself, if

you please, hereupon, to receive the money and give the necessary receipt, and transmit the money to me by any means which you may deem safe, (enclosed,) the mail excepted.

Oblige, dear sir, your humble servant,

J. O. BEAUCHAMP,
Attorney for S. P. Sharp.

Simpson County Sct.

The foregoing is a correct transcript of an original letter now on file in my office, appertaining to the case therein mentioned. Witness my hand, this 13th day of January 1827.

JOHN L. MOORE, *Clk.*"

"Received \$5, my fee in a suit, S. P. Sharp against M. Clark, of A. M. Robinson, 14th January 1824.

J. O. BEAUCHAMP."

It will be recollected by all who have read Beauchamp's confession, that he pretends to have contracted his deadly hostility to Col. Sharp, as early as 1820 or 1821, to have travelled to Frankfort in the fall of the latter year for the express purpose of killing him, and to have been constantly watching his movements to gain an opportunity to accomplish his dreadful purpose, until the fatal night of November the 6th, 1825. But here is explicit evidence, derived in part from the records of the country, proving, not only that he had no hostility to Col. Sharp in 1823, but on the contrary, was employed in his business, and was endeavoring so to demean himself as to gain his friendship and further patronage. His language, at that time, corresponded with his acts, as appears by the following:

"I do certify, that some time in the winter or spring of the year 1823, in Franklin, Simpson County, Kentucky, I was present and heard a conversation between J. O. Beauchamp and some other persons. The conversation turned upon men of eminence, when Beauchamp named Col. Sharp, and said he had raised himself by his own merit, to be one of the first men in the country, and spoke well of him as a gentleman and a man of talents, so as to convince me, by his words and manner, that he had no malignity of heart or ill will against Col. Sharp at that time. Given under my hand, this 13th January 1827.

B. F. SIMPSON."

"Sworn to before me, this 13th of January 1827.

H. B. MONTAGUE, J. P."

"I do certify, that some time in the fall of the year 1823 or 1824, at my brother's store in Simpson County, Ky. I heard J. O. Beauchamp speaking of a supposed resemblance he thought he bore to Col. S. P. Sharp; and in speaking of it, he appeared to exult in

the idea of resembling him, and spoke of Col. Sharp as one of the first men in the State, both as a gentleman and a man of talents, and clearly discovered, both by his conversation and manner, that he entertained no malignity of heart, ill will or resentment to Col. Sharp at that time. Given under my hand, this 13th January 1827.

JOHN M'GOODWIN."

"Sworn to before me, this 13th January 1827.

H. B. MONTAGUE, J. P."

Hence it appears, that down to the year 1824, J. O. Beauchamp had no malice or ill will against Col. Sharp; but on the contrary, was employed in his business, was seeking to secure his further patronage, spoke of him in the highest terms, and was even proud in thinking he resembled him.

In addition to this, I have abundant proof, that if Beauchamp had been seeking the life of Col. Sharp in 1822 and 1823, he had many opportunities to execute his purpose, as the following statements will show:

"BOWLINGGREEN, 14th January 1827.

Dear Sir:

My recollection, aided by the records of my office, enables me to say, that your brother, the late Col. Solomon P. Sharp, attended the Warren Circuit Court, three times after his removal from this place to Frankfort; namely, February and August terms 1822, and the August term 1823; and I am clearly of the belief, that he did not leave either of those Courts, until they were regularly adjourned, or the business of the terms considered finished.

Yours respectfully,

JONA. HOBSON.

F. C. SHARP, Esq."

"I do certify, that Col. S. P. Sharp attended the Warren Circuit Court in Bowlinggreen, at the February term, in the year 1822, and that Col. Sharp and his wife came down in August 1822, some time before the August term of the Circuit Court, and continued here until after the Court, and must have staid three or four weeks at that time; and that Col. Sharp attended the August term of the Court 1823, and went from this to the Butler Court; that during the years 1822 and 1823, J. O. Beauchamp spent most of his time at Bowlinggreen, and generally attended the Courts at this place in those years. Given under my hand, this 14th January 1827.

J. B. STERETT."

"We do certify, that the above statement of Doct. J. B. Sterrett, is substantially true. Given under our hands, 14th January 1827.

JOHN S. LUCAS,
W. B. HENDRICKS."

It hence appears, that during the years 1822 and 1823, Beauchamp had abundant opportunities to take the life of Col. Sharp, if such had been his design. So far from it, not only was he attending Court with him, but entertained for him the highest respect, as was evinced by his various declarations.

It was probably in 1821, that Beauchamp first became acquainted with Ann Cook. She was then living within a mile of his father's. He had doubtless heard her real character before that time; and instead of that disinterested feeling of respect towards an injured female, which, he pretends, induced him to seek her acquaintance, he was probably influenced by another feeling more natural to profligate young men. It was rumored in 1821 or '22, that they were to be married. But his father, well apprized of Ann Cook's infamous character, refused his consent. Every means he could use were employed in vain to overcome his father's objections. At length, he was so enraged, that he threatened with the most dreadful imprecations, the life of him who gave him existence, and once loaded his pistols to commit the horrible crime! But the old man was inflexible. At one time, in his phrenzy to unite himself with this woman, he presented a loaded pistol to the breast of the Clerk of Simpson County and demanded a marriage license on pain of death; but this effort was also fruitless. He was compelled to wait until he was of age. I have myself heard him boasting among his companions at Bowlinggreen, of his attempt to intimidate the Clerk. He said he did not intend to shoot the d——d rascal; but wished to scare him out of a license. Nor, as he said, did he intend to marry Ann Cook; but that he was only making her believe he did.

There is no doubt, that the intercourse between them was for years of the most profligate kind. At length she persuaded him, that she was with child by him. He communicated this fact to a connexion in Bowlinggreen, and asked advice, whether he ought to marry her or not. He was told to do as he thought proper. Her ascendancy over him seems to have been complete. The following statements show under what impressions he entered into this fatal union.

"I do certify, that some few days before the intermarriage of J. O. Beauchamp to Ann Cook, I met J. O. Beauchamp on the road between my house and Franklin. After the usual compliments were passed, he asked me if I would be at home during that week.

I answered in the affirmative. He, Beauchamp, stated that he was then on his way to Franklin to get his license to marry Ann Cook, and wished me to solemnize the rites of matrimony between them; but stated, he should not have been in such a hurry to have married, but that Ann Cook was in a pregnant state by him, Beauchamp, and would have a child in a short time, and he wished to marry her before she was delivered of her child. I was at that time an acting justice of the peace for the County of Simpson, and was authorized by the County Court of said County, to solemnize the rites of matrimony within said County. And some few days after meeting said Beauchamp, as before stated, he called at my house and solicited me to come to Ann Cook's and join them together as before stated, which I did, which will be more fully expressed by examining my return in the Clerk's office of Simpson County. February 10th, 1827.

W. LYNCH.

Capt. JOHN F. LOWE, Simpson County.

"I do state, that one or two weeks after J. O. Beauchamp was married to Ann Cook, I was requested by Beauchamp, to go and bleed his wife, the said Ann. After we came to his house, he enquired of me, if there was any danger of bleeding her in the arm. I asked him why he made the inquiry? He said, he expected her in one month to bring him a fine son. I replied to him, that he was certainly jesting. He said, is it not so, Ann? She answered it was so, and she believed Mr. Beauchamp was proud of it; for he would be telling of it. Given under my hand, 13th January 1827.

J. F. LOWE."

Witness—F. C. SHARP.

They were married in June 1824. Mrs. Beauchamp never had a child by Beauchamp. The whole turned out to be a gross imposition. It was doubtless the last link of those fetters which she had been twining around a giddy, profligate boy for three years, until she had accomplished the object of her wishes and made him her husband.

Mr. Beauchamp was then twenty-one years old; his wife about thirty-eight. These facts alone would make the union extraordinary; but when it is considered, that she had, four years before, had a bastard child; that she was notoriously a loose woman, and that no man knew it better than Beauchamp; that he had nothing to gain by marrying her, in character, in business, or even in facilitating the gratification of his profligate desires, it seems indeed astonishing. She had some property, and it has been supposed that, dead as he notoriously was, to every sense of propriety, reputation or virtue, he joined himself to this woman for the sake of what she had. But this inducement would seem insuf-

ficient, and considering all the circumstances of the case, it is one of the most striking instances of the ascendancy which bad women sometimes gain over the minds of men, which has been recorded in history. Though the event proved to him that she had practised upon him the most barefaced imposition, in pretending that she was pregnant, it does not appear that he ever spoke disrespectfully of her, or otherwise complained, except that he was somewhat disappointed as to the amount of her property.

In relation to women, he had not confined himself to Ann Cook, before marriage. It is said, that many illegitimate children were charged to him. At the time he came to Frankfort for the purpose, as he pretends, of taking the life of Col. Sharp, as an example to those who sport with female innocence and ruin helpless orphans, he was laboring under a charge of that very crime himself! To this point I submit the following documents. Eight days before the murder of Col. Sharp, the following warrant for bastardy was issued against him:

** The Commonwealth of Kentucky to the Sheriff or any Constable of Simpson County, greeting:*

Whereas, Ruth Reed of said county, single woman, hath made oath, before me, H. B. Montague, one of the Commonwealth's Justices of the Peace for said county, that on the 10th day of June, 1824, in the county of Simpson, she, the said Ruth Reed, was delivered of a male bastard child, and hath charged J. O. Beauchamp, laborer, of having gotten her with child of the said bastard child: You are, therefore, commanded immediately to apprehend the said Beauchamp, and to bring him before me, or some other Justice of the Peace for said county, then and there to be dealt with according to the act of Assembly, in that case made and provided. Given under my hand, this 29th day of October, 1825.

H. B. MONTAGUE, J. P.

The within named Beauchamp, not found in my county. Nov. 29th, 1825.

THOMAS HAIL, c. s. c."

" State of Kentucky, Simpson County.

The within is a true copy of the original warrant in the case it purports to be, issued at the request of Ruth Reed, without the knowledge of Beauchamp, so far as I know; also, the officer's return thereon. Given under my hand, January 13th, 1827.

H. B. MONTAGUE, J. P.

"I do not believe, that J. O. Beauchamp had any hand or concern in the issuing, or cause of issuing the within warrant; but on the contrary, I believe he knew nothing of it until the next day after issuing the said warrant. My reason for believing as I do, is this: I went to the said Beauchamp's house with the war-

rant and enquired of Mrs. Beauchamp where Beauchamp was, and she told me. Then she was very inquisitive to know what I wanted with him. I told her, nothing of consequence. She observed, I know what you want; you have a warrant against Mr. Beauchamp, in favor of Ruth Reed, for bastardy, and would advise you not to serve that warrant on him. He heard of it yesterday, and has two pistols and a dirk, and swears he will kill before he will be taken. Given under my hand, January 13th, 1824.

THOMAS HAIL."

We do hereby certify, that Ruth Reed came to our house (on the day of the date of a warrant being issued by Esq. Montague,) in a private manner, for the purpose of procuring said warrant against J. O. Beauchamp, in a case of seduction and bastardy, and was qualified in our presence. She being related to us, made free statements and disclosures to us, and we do believe from the whole tenor of the transaction, from the beginning of the matter, that she was not instigated by said Beauchamp to procure said warrant; but, on the contrary, believe that he had no knowledge of it until after the warrant was issued; and we further state, that Ruth Reed was a poor orphan girl, left without a mother to guide or counsel her.

EDWARD CORNWELL,

her

SARAH X CORNWELL,

mark.

"*Simpson County, Sct.*

This day, the above-named Edward and Sarah Cornwell came before me, and made oath that the above certificate contains the truth, to the best of their knowledge. Given under my hand this 13th day of January, 1827.

THOMAS M. SMITH, J. P."

Beauchamp, in his confession, alleged that he procured the issue of this warrant, to conceal, under pretence of escaping from it, his journey to Frankfort. This statement is disproved by the Justice of the Peace, the Constable, the relations of the injured girl, and especially by the exposure of himself and his name at Frankfort, and while coming and returning. Had he sought concealment, he would not have shown himself to those who knew him, and much less tell his name to strangers.

At the moment, therefore, when he was seeking the life of Col. Sharp, under the pretence that he had seduced and slandered an unprotected, inexperienced orphan girl, of 35 years old! he was himself exposed to apprehension under a warrant for seducing a young and thoughtless orphan, whom he had literally and truly ruined! This is the *practice* of a man who pretends to *teach morality* with his dagger!!

The true character of this man is further exemplified by the following statements:

"I do certify, that Elisha Moon was confined in the jail at Bowlinggreen, upon a charge of horse stealing, for which he has since been convicted to undergo a confinement in the penitentiary of this state for a term of years; that J. O. Beauchamp was employed to defend said Moon, on said charge. On Thursday night, before the Circuit Court in February 1824, I was near the jail, being the keeper thereof, and heard said Beauchamp in secret conversation with said Moon, at a late hour of the night. Beauchamp stated to Moon that he was employed to clear him; that court was approaching, and it would not do for him to stand his trial; that he would have him out before Saturday night. After hearing this conversation, I ordered him to clear himself, telling him that no honest man would be there at that hour of the night, conspiring with prisoners to let them out of jail. With that he sneaked off and said nothing. On the next night, I run him from the jail, declaring I intended to shoot him if he returned. This I made public shortly after it happened. Given under my hand, 15th January, 1827.

JAMES KEEL".

"It is always with reluctance that I speak of character; but being called on by the friends and relations of the late Col. Solomon P. Sharp, to state any knowledge I have of his character, and in reference to the notorious Ann Cook, or late Ann Beauchamp. So far as I can say, Col. Sharp's moral character was good, and his manners unimpeachable, and unimpeached, until charged by said Ann Cook, and so far as I can learn, this charge is least believed where he and Ann Cook were best known. Ann Cook had been not a little remarkable, years before the alleged seduction against Col. Sharp, for great lasciviousness of sentiment and manners.

I am also requested to state what was the general character of J. O. Beauchamp, lately hung for the murder of Col. Sharp, and likewise what seemed to be the disposition he manifested towards the Colonel, friendly or unfriendly, while he lived in Franklin. Beauchamp's general character was certainly one of the worst I ever knew of his age. And had I been asked who of all the world, would be best calculated to plan and execute the horrible deed of assassination, or any other most despicable act, requiring cool cunning to design and daring villainy to perpetrate, I should have answered, J. O. Beauchamp. Avarice was a very predominant trait in his character, and almost all his transactions with men, were marked with the vilest frauds. I knew him well, five or six years, and never knew him do an act of any kind which indicated magnanimity of soul or real dignity of sentiment. His great depravity of heart always seemed most conspicuous, when-

ever you formed an estimate of any of his actions. I have more than once, heard him speak of Col. Sharp, after he made the attempt (being under age) to marry Ann Cook, in the highest terms of respect and commendation. And I have seen him, when jestingly told he was like the Colonel in person and manners, evidently display considerable vanity; this, too, several years before he did marry Ann Cook, and after he was acquainted with her and her whole story of seduction, &c.

THOMAS M. SMITH."

Statements enough of this man's wild, lascivious, revengeful, unprincipled and shameless conduct, might be procured to make a volume. He openly made a jest of all virtue. He sometimes made speeches to the people in favor of a bad character, declaring it was much more easy to maintain a bad character than a good one. He was in the constant habit of cheating, slandering and quarreling with many individuals and often threatened their lives. He had his guns, pistols, dirks and knives, some of which he always carried about him. Nor was Mrs. Beauchamp at all reformed by her marriage, or even by the awful condition in which herself and husband were placed by the murder of Col. Sharp. Rumor says, that she practised shameless adultery and prostitution while her husband was confined in the jail in Frankfort, for the murder; and while she was on the way to this place under arrest, charged with being an accomplice in that foul crime, she made propositions of that sort to two of the guard! I have the information from the mouth of one of them, and so direct from the other, that I cannot doubt its truth.

Reader, review the characters of these two wretches. A woman of 38, steeped in infidelity, covered with prostitution and sunk in infamy, unites herself to a desperate young man of 21, as depraved as herself, but more dangerous because more strong. They have no tie, religious or moral; no interest in the maintenance of a good character which they have forever lost; no inducement to bind them to correct conduct and an observance of the laws, or to restrain them from any act to which they might be stimulated by avarice or revenge. Fear, they knew not. That instinct which makes life desirable, was the only restraint they felt, and hope of impunity was sufficient to overcome that. The world could not furnish two more fit instruments for a desperate and dreadful enterprize. A consciousness of having wronged Col. Sharp, must have made a bad woman, like Mrs. Beauchamp, hate him, and it would not be difficult for her to infuse into her husband's mind a portion of her malicious and desperate feelings. Yet, it is evident, that he harbored no resentment against Col. Sharp as late as the year 1824. Nor is there the least evidence, that she ever gave utterance to a revengeful word from 1820, up

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to her marriage. If she had any malice, it was concealed in her own breast. Both of them evinced by their words, that they had no just ground of hostility against him; and the idea that they had, is totally inconsistent with all Beauchamp's conduct. No man who considers that he was attending Court with Col. Sharp in 1822 and 1823; that in the latter year, he was collecting money for him, which business was not concluded until 1824; that he urged forward his business for the purpose of gaining his further patronage; that he spoke of him in the most exalted terms, and was even proud of a supposed resemblance; could, during all that time, have been seeking an opportunity to take his life. Still less can it be imagined, that a man who had so little honor or feeling as to marry a woman 17 years older than himself, who, as he well knew, had given birth to a bastard child; who had been the mistress of many individuals and prostituted to any man who would approach her; whom he himself had kept as a mistress for some years, and finally married under a belief that she would in a short time bring him a son, in which he found himself deceived, could entertain any deep feeling of resentment towards any man who might have availed himself of such a woman's frailties. That he could have had any such feelings towards Col. Sharp, whom circumstances proved, and his wife admitted, to be innocent of the charge originally made against him, is impossible! There never was a seduction of Ann Cook by Col. Sharp, nor was he the father of her child, as I have fully proved; and, therefore, this seduction, so loudly trumpeted to the world, could not have constituted any motive for his murder.

CHAPTER IV.

Patrick Henry Darby—alias Patrick Darby.

AS the individual whose name is placed at the head of this chapter, must cut a conspicuous figure in this narrative, I have endeavored to collect sufficient information to make out a narrative of his life. In this undertaking, I have been but partially successful; yet I have acquired enough to convey an adequate idea of his character.

Where Mr. Darby was born, is somewhat uncertain. He has himself said, that he entered the world in some of the western counties of Pennsylvania; but rumor has fixed on Ireland as the place of his birth. Equally obscure are the accounts of his education, and his habits and practices in early life. Where he

F.

located himself, or whether he had any location at all for many years after he descended the Ohio river, I have never been able to ascertain. In 1811 he was in the lower part of this State, as is proved by a note there executed by him, on which a judgment has been lately obtained in the Franklin Circuit Court. To this note was written the name of *Patrick Darby*. Where, in his various peregrinations, he picked up the word *Henry*, and interpolated it in his name, the records of the country might, perhaps, if they were searched, afford the means of determining. It is by no means improbable, that his name has been changed more than once.

It is said, that many years ago he was the associate of a gang of villains and gamblers in the Arkansas Territory, and left that country with a race horse, recommended to a similar association in Louisiana. The story goes, that on the credit of his recommendations, a race was made up and he encouraged his new friends to make the most extravagant bets on his horse, and after he had got them committed as deeply as possible, made an arrangement with the opposite party, purposely caused his horse to be beaten, pocketed his portion of the ill gotten gains, and immediately fled to Illinois. There, he is said to have made another race, upon which he staked all his winnings, and lost; but by some means contrived to get the horses out of the possession of the stakeholder, and fled to Kentucky. Were pains taken to procure the particulars, I have no doubt an amusing narrative might be made out of his adventures on the frontiers, which would probably remunerate the author.

So far as I know, his first location in this world was at Hopkinsville, in this State. By his forwardness and insolence, he soon made himself hated by every body, and it was not long before he found it necessary to decamp. He had now become a Lawyer, and passed himself by the name of *Patrick Henry Darby*, probably to assimilate himself to the great Patrick Henry. However, the people saw no resemblance; he got no business, and no decent man would associate with him. From Hopkinsville he went to Clarksville, in Tennessee. It was not long before his true character was there developed. From this time, I have some authentic particulars of his history. In this place, a free negro woman was indicted for some petty felony, and Darby undertook her defence. She agreed to serve him one or two years for his fee; but he imposed upon her ignorance an indenture of 99 years, and afterwards run her off himself, or caused it to be done, and had her sold as a slave for life. This affair and other acts of baseness, forced him to leave Clarksville, and he took up his residence in Nashville. The town of Clarksville was incorporated on land which belonged to Col. John Montgomery, and Darby discovered that there was an error in the act of incorporation. Without the

many consent or knowledge of either party, plaintiff or defendant, twenty or more years after Montgomery's death, he revived an old judgment against him, had the execution levied on the land and town, and purchased it himself. A Mr. Samuel Vance was then lying very ill in town; but he caused himself to be carried in his bed to the place of sale, directed the Sheriff to demand the purchase money of Darby, and as he could not produce it, the property was again put up, and bought by Vance, who conveyed it to the different honest proprietors. After purchasing the property, Vance told Darby, that if he did not clear out in one hour, or if he ever again set his foot in that town, he should be taken over the river and whipped as long as there was a beech limb in the bottom. Knowing that Vance was a man of his word, Darby retreated in time to save his back from merited stripes.

After Darby had located himself at Nashville, he endeavored to cover the deformities of his character with a cloak of religion, became a zealous Presbyterian and joined the Church under the pastoral care of the Rev. A. D. Campbell! No reformation took place in his conduct, and after playing the hypocrite a while before his God and the world, he left the Church to avoid expulsion.

There are a tissue of infamous acts committed by this man in Tennessee; but I do not know their precise chronological order. I shall, however, particularize several of them, that the reader may understand the true character of the man who has since played so conspicuous a part in Kentucky.

Mr. Darby seems inclined to make himself rich by land speculations. To progress in this business with the more facility and to secure himself against the just demands of creditors, it was necessary to assume false colours. He, therefore, procured a citizen of Kentucky to join him, and they entered into a written agreement by which all lands and land claims purchased or owned by him in Tennessee, were to be conveyed to this non-resident, of whom he appeared to act as the agent, for their joint benefit; Darby to have two thirds and the other party one third. Darby was to prosecute all the suits in the Federal Courts, and the purchase money and costs were to be divided between them in proportion to their interest. By this contrivance, Darby was enabled to escape the demands of his creditors and prosecute his *own* suits against citizens of Tennessee, although a citizen himself, in the Federal Courts. What was done under this plan to harrass the people of Tennessee, defraud creditors and evade the constitution and laws of the country, I know not. The agreement was executed in 1819, and Darby was security for costs in suits prosecuted by him in the Federal Court, after that date, on which occasions he swore that he was worth \$50,000. Every man who heard him, believed this was perjury. Since I was informed of the facts

I have detailed, I have been curious to know whether this oath was not taken to enable him to be security *in his own cases* brought in the Federal Court, under the agreement I have mentioned. I have little doubt of the fact, but have not had an opportunity to ascertain it.

In one of the cases in which he was employed as counsel while residing in Tennessee, he was suspected of stealing a will, under such circumstances as left no doubt of the fact on the minds of those who knew them. Darby called on the Clerk of the Court where the will was filed among other papers, and requested to see it. While he was examining the papers, the Clerk stepped out, and on his return, Darby handed the papers to him and took his leave. On the trial of the suit, the Clerk was required to bring the will into Court, when, on looking among the papers with which it was when he gave them to Darby, it was not to be found, nor was it ever found afterwards. Some expressions used by Darby when the Clerk was directed to bring the will into Court, distinctly intimated that he knew it was gone.

In another case he was prosecuted for forging the name of J. Cryer as his security, after Cryer's death. In this case he escaped with his ears; but the evidence was such as to make almost every one who heard it, believe he was guilty. Four or five witnesses, well acquainted with Cryer's hand writing, concurred in opinion, that it was a forgery; it was proved, that the decedent had said, Darby had applied to him to be security, but that he would have nothing to do with him, and that he had cautioned others against him. Darby could not prove the signature nor any circumstance which could lead to the belief that it was genuine; but whatever might be the belief of the jury, they did not think the evidence quite sufficient to deprive a man of his ears.

A man by the name of Outlaw was prosecuted for stealing a watch. The defence set up by him was, that he had got the watch of a young man of good character, the son of a widow woman, whose husband had, in some degree, befriended Darby. On hearing of it, Darby said he would aid in prosecuting the vile wretch who had so basely slandered the son of his friend. Accordingly, he agreed to aid Col. William Hadley, the Commonwealth's attorney, in the prosecution. Darby opened the case, and stated to the jury, that Outlaw was himself the felon, and that his charge against the worthy young man was an infamous falsehood. When the Court adjourned for dinner, Darby took the Hon. John Overton aside, and told him, that as he was a man of age and experience, he wished to ask his advice; that there was something which lay heavy upon his mind, and he wished to know how he ought to act. When asked what it was, he said that this young man, some time before, had come to Nashville and consulted him as a Lawyer, and in that consulta-

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tion, had confessed to him that he stole the watch for which Outlaw was prosecuted, and he wished to know whether he ought to disclose that fact, or whether he was bound as a Lawyer to conceal it. Judge Overton told him he was competent to understand his oaths and obligations, and turned from him with unutterable disgust and abhorrence; for he did not believe a word he said. After dinner, Darby stated to the Court, that something lay heavy on his mind, and he wished to be sworn as a witness in the case. He was sworn and testified to what he had told Overton. Col. Hadley asked him, whether he had ever communicated this information to any person before? He replied, that he had told it to three men in Gallatin, sometime before, naming the time, place and persons. Those men being then in town, were called in, and each of them positively swore, that Darby had never told him any such thing. He then said, he was mistaken; that he had not made the communication to these men, but had made it to a Mr. Ball, who was then known to be in Natchez. In the meantime, he had changed sides in the cause, and instead of prosecuting Outlaw, was now earnest in his defence. Outlaw was acquitted; but has since been hanged for horse stealing. Mr. Ball returned from Natchez and publicly declared that Darby had never made any such communication to him as he had sworn. There was generally no doubt of Darby's perjury, and it was believed Outlaw had hired him to commit it.

But whatever might have been the opinions of men in this case, there was another in which his perjury was as notorious as the noonday sun. He brought a suit against Stephen Cantrell for a lot in Nashville. In two several affidavits written with his own hand, sworn to and filed in the cause, he stated, that a certain deed under which the title was derived, had been in his possession; that it had two assignments upon it; that he had sent it by a named person to Pennsylvania, for the purpose of procuring the maker, who lived there, to execute another deed, to fulfil the purposes of the assignments; that the man by whom it was sent, had died on the road, but that he expected to recover the deed. By the time the last affidavit was filed, it was discovered, that this very deed was laying in one of the public offices at Nashville, whence it had never been removed. In pursuance of a *subpoena duces tecum* for that purpose, it was brought into Court, when, upon inspection, it was seen that there was no assignment upon it, and never had been! Thus, it was proved by the deed itself, that every word Darby had twice sworn concerning it, was entirely false. It had never been assigned, had never been in his possession, had never been sent to Pennsylvania. There ended his suit.

At length, Darby fell into violent quarrels with all the Judges, both of the Court of Appeals and Federal Court, because their de-

eisions thwarted him in the expected profits of his speculations. He wrote pamphlets against them of the most violent and abusive character, charging them with inconsistency, fraud and corruption, insulted and endeavored to browbeat them. Finally, being unable to endure his insolence any longer, his name was struck from the roll of Attorneys, and he was expelled from both Courts. Stamped with detected hypocrisy, charged with kidnapping, forgery, theft, perjury and other infamous crimes, an outcast to society and the detestation of all good men, he floundered awhile in the flood of public abhorrence which poured in upon him, and then again determined to abandon a place and a country where he could no longer remain.

In an evil day for Kentucky, Mr. Darby determined to make this State his future residence. His first intention seems to have been, to locate himself at Elizabethtown, and confine himself to speculation and the practice of the law. But soon his ambition led him to the capital of the State, where he took up his residence, I believe, in 1824. At first, he avowed a determination to avoid all interference in public affairs, and confine himself to his private business. But such a course is not at all compatible with his character. By his peculiar assurance, Mr. Darby soon pushed himself into the best society. With one exception, there was probably no person in Frankfort, who knew any thing of this man's character, except by vague rumor. So imposing was his manner, that many trusted him. Although he had sworn in Tennessee, that he was worth \$50,000, he had left that State an entire bankrupt and deeply involved. Yet, in Frankfort, he was trusted by every body, and many have since repented of their confidence. He even had the address, by pledging certain land claims, to induce some of our rich citizens to become his securities to the Bank of the Commonwealth for \$2,000, and it is said to the Branch Bank of the United States at Lexington, for a like sum. Supported thus by men of capital, who seldom hazard any thing, he was enabled to contract debts with multitudes.

How far individuals may have suffered by the countenance which rich and prominent men have shown to this outcast of Tennessee, it would take some time to ascertain. I shall detail but one case, which confirms the character he sustained in that State. A gentleman of Cincinnati was in Frankfort, and wished to send a sum of money to Nashville. He was recommended to Mr. Darby, who was about to visit that place, as a safe hand. He enclosed in a letter to the Cashier of one of the Nashville Banks, \$400, and gave it to Mr. Darby, telling him what was in the letter. The money was never received. On inquiry into the matter, Mr. Darby told the gentleman, that his horse had thrown him into Salt River, and wet all his papers; that he found among them a letter, enclosing a sum of money; that he had forgot who

gave it to him as well as to whom it was directed, and both the superscription and the letter itself were so defaced that he could not find out; and that in consequence, he had taken the money and applied it to his own use! The gentleman doubtless thought it marvellous, that the names of the Cashiers, Presidents, &c. on the notes, were not equally defaced; but he contented himself with requiring that Mr. Darby should replace the money. He succeeded in obtaining a part of it, and a note for the balance, payable in the U. S. Branch Bank at Lexington, with Robert Wickliffe, Esq. as security. I suppose Mr. Wickliffe has paid the money for his friend, as there has since been a suit upon the note against Darby, I presume, for Wickliffe's benefit.

Such is the character of the man, and thus was he supported, who has been the chief agent in calumniating the memory of my murdered brother. Although he was long since completely unveiled, and presented to the people of Frankfort, as I now present him to the reader, yet he still finds countenance and support from men who stand high in society and affect to respect themselves! But the whole of this will be developed in the further progress of this narrative.

I had hoped, that the termination of the suits instituted against Mrs. Sharp, myself and others, would have enabled me to support this narrative of his character by the depositions of respectable men. But as he chooses to delay those suits under frivolous pretences, I am compelled to wait until he can be forced into a trial, or out of court. I, however, affix the following statement from a highly respectable merchant in Clarksville, Tennessee, relative to one of the facts to which I have alluded.

"A negro girl, who claimed to be free, came up the Cumberland river in a boat, as she said, from New-Orleans. She, some days after her arrival at this place, Clarksville, broke in at one of my windows in the night and stole several articles and alarmed my family. I had her prosecuted as a slave, under the laws of this State, in a summary way. P. H. Darby, by some means, got himself into her cause as her counsel, and to secure to himself his fee, took her indenture for 99 years, as I was informed and believe. The prosecution so resulted, that said negro was only whipped, branded and ordered to imprisonment. While she was there imprisoned, Darby went to the jail and took her out by force, intimidating an old and feeble man, the jailer, in the night time, and left this place with her before daybreak, for Kentucky, Livingston County, as I believe, and there sold her as a slave, or swopped her for a negro man slave. It was believed by the citizens of this place, that the negro was free, as she had certificates signed by Benjamin Morgan, of New-Orleans, to that effect, and no other person, I believe, has ever set up any claim to her, and

Darby defended her on the ground that she was free, and afterwards made a compromise with the jury and called court to let her be whipped; all of which was illegal, as by the law she was liable to be hung or acquitted, whether a slave or free. Darby's sale was, in either case, illegal and contrary to the laws of this State, and subjected him to a prosecution. Given under my hand, this 17th of April 1826.

HUGH M'CLURE.

CHAPTER V.

Incidents which preceded the murder—furious denunciations of Col. Sharp—threats against his life.

DURING the year 1824, and for several previous years, the State of Kentucky had been much agitated with the decisions of the Courts against the constitutionality of the relief laws of the country, and attempts to remove, first a Circuit Judge, and afterwards the Judges of the Court of Appeals, from office. To remove them by address, the constitution required two-thirds of both houses of the General Assembly, and the grand effort was, to return a sufficient number of members to accomplish that end. In 1822 and 1823, there was a large majority against the Judges; and in 1824, the majority fell but little short of two-thirds. The voice of the country seemed thus to be against their decisions; but they refused to resign, and not a sufficient number could be returned to remove them by address.

Upon an examination of the manner in which the Court of Appeals had been brought into existence, and from time to time remodelled and regulated, together with the principles avowed and the precedent set by the republican party in Congress in 1802, many of those who stood opposed to the Judges, became satisfied, that the Legislature had power to abolish the Court and establish another. This ground was therefore taken, and in December 1824, the Legislature passed an act repealing all previous acts establishing and regulating the Court of Appeals, and organized another Court. This measure, after encountering the most violent opposition, received the sanction of both houses by considerable majorities, and was approved by the Governor. The minority drew up a protest, which was published to the country, denouncing this act in the most violent terms as a violation of the constitution and a revolution.

It is not my purpose to enter into a vindication of the re-organizing act. It is sufficient for my purpose to say, that Col. Sharp,

who had been opposed to the removal of the Judges by address, believed this act constitutional. Being Attorney General, it was his duty, without stopping to enquire into the expediency of the act, to afford his official aid in carrying it into execution.

It was the intention of the new Judges to reappoint all the ministerial officers of the old Court, that as little inconvenience as possible might be brought upon the country by the change made in the supreme judicial tribunal. Col. Richard Taylor, although opposed to removing the Judges in any mode, had been made Sergeant of the new Court, and it was determined to appoint Achilles Sneed, the Clerk of the old Court, as Clerk of the new Court. But before the meeting of the new Court, the old Judges assembled. Mr. Sneed attended them by his deputy, and although they did no business, they claimed to be the only constitutional Judges of the Court of Appeals, and published an address to the people. From these circumstances, the new Judges were induced to believe, that Mr. Sneed wished to be appointed Clerk only for the purpose of keeping the records and papers for the use of the old Judges, and although he promised in a letter, to serve them and them only, if appointed, they had lost confidence in his intentions, and gave the office to F. P. Blair, Esq.

This appointment had scarcely been made, when it was ascertained that Mr. Sneed would refuse to deliver over to the new Clerk, the books and papers of the office. The appointment was made on the 3d of February, 1825; and on that day, an order was made, on motion of Colonel Sharp, Attorney General, requiring Mr. Sneed to deliver over the books and papers of the Clerk's office, to Mr. Blair. Of this fact, Mr. Sneed was informed on that evening and refused obedience. The next day he was served with a copy of the order by the deputy Sergeant, but returned no answer. On motion of Colonel Sharp, a summons was then issued, requiring him to appear and show cause why he should not be attached for contempt, in not delivering over the books and papers in obedience to the order of the Court. Mr. Sneed attended and requested time until the next morning to meet the proceedings against him. Time was allowed him to answer; but as he would not agree to abide by the decision of the Court, Colonel Sharp moved that the Sergeant be directed to go forthwith, with sufficient force, take possession of the books and papers, and deliver them over to the new Clerk. He found the office locked, and it became necessary to break open, first a window and then the doors. The office was emptied of its contents, and they were delivered over to Mr. Blair. The object of the Court having been attained, as was supposed, Colonel Sharp, on the next morning, moved to discharge Mr. Sneed from further proceedings in relation to the contempt, and he was discharged accordingly. But in a short time, it was discovered that all the books and papers

relative to causes then depending in the Court, had been removed before the office was entered, and that among those obtained, there were none which could enable the new Court to progress with business. Colonel Sharp, on this discovery, promptly moved the Court for an attachment against Mr. Sneed, returnable instantly. After examining sundry witnesses and holding some consultation, the Court ordered an attachment to issue, returnable on Monday, that being Saturday, and Colonel Sharp, the Attorney General, was directed to furnish Mr. Sneed with a list of interrogatories.

The affair had now taken a serious turn, which involved great responsibility on the part of Mr. Sneed and his aiders and abettors. By a law of this State, the purloining of papers from a public office, is made a felony, punishable by confinement in the penitentiary. If the new Court should be sustained by public opinion, Mr. Sneed and his associates were liable to prosecution and punishment under this law. Neither Colonel Sharp, nor the new Judges, wished to inflict any punishment on Mr. Sneed, or those who had aided him in removing the books and papers; but they were determined, in the performance of what they conceived to be their duty, to obtain the possession of these documents at every hazard.

Colonel Sharp prepared his interrogatories, some of which were of the most searching kind. He was determined to show Mr. Sneed and his associates, the dangerous attitude in which they stood, with the hope of thus inducing them to deliver up the papers without further trouble. One of the interrogatories drawn with that view, was as follows:

"Who removed said records, writs, process, books and papers, or any part or parcel thereof; who was concerned in it; who procured their or any of their removal; who abetted or counselled it?"

Previous to the removal of the papers, it had doubtless been determined that the new Judges should never have possession of them, and it is said, this determination was persisted in until late on Sunday night, and perhaps until Monday morning. But the searching character of the interrogatories, had the desired effect. After preparing them, Colonel Sharp handed them to Mr. Sneed's counsel. When he read that which required the names of his counsellors, aiders and abettors, he coloured up and said, "Good God, Colonel Sharp, what do you mean?" "I mean to have the papers," replied Colonel Sharp. By the time the Court met on Monday morning, all thought of resisting its authority had been abandoned, and the lost books and papers had found their way back into Mr. Sneed's office. Of this, the Court was informed by his answers to the interrogatories, and Colonel Sharp immediately moved that the Sergeant be ordered to go and take them. The order was made accordingly, and the Sergeant, after being warned

off by Mr. Munsell, son-in-law of Mr. Sneed, again broke open the office and took the balance of the papers. For his contempt of the Court, in removing the papers, Mr. Sneed was fined ten pounds and set at liberty.

The inflexible firmness of Colonel Sharp in this affair, brought down upon him the most bitter denunciations from the active men of the old Court party. Even while the proceedings in Court were pending, he was spoken of in the most savage manner, and after their termination, was threatened with vengeance. The bitterness felt towards him, burst out in Mr. Sneed's answers to the interrogatories, which were evidently prepared by several different hands. In his reply to one of them, he said: "But the Attorney General seems to possess the *inquisitorial faculty*, but it is hoped, not the powers of the *Inquisition*," &c. In reply to the question I have before quoted, he was made to say: "Upon this interrogatory, the respondent appeals to the constitution; though, as he believes, most obviously and palpably violated, it is yet the only shield and defence which a man has for life, liberty or property; and though an humble Clerk in better times, has, as at all other times he has had, a sense of right, of justice and of honor, and shall he be urged to betray his friends, his counsel in a case, new, hazardous, and one that to him might be ruinous? And upon what allegation of crime? Are they principals or accessories in the offence with which he is charged? the offence of disobeying an order to deliver papers which he is bound to preserve and safely keep. And for what purpose is this list of names demanded? For legal prosecution, or malicious proscription? Not of your honors, but you are in the exercise of power; there may be tools, parasites or gentlemen, whose curiosities may see gratification in this, no doubt, *very appropriate* espionage. Was he disposed to consider as included in the question, all those whom he has conversed with upon the subject of his case, and render a catalogue of their names, believe him, your honors could not read them, without some feelings of respectful consideration. Your honors would find among them men, who think the constitution yet worth preserving; and whose contempt for *usurpers*, is only equalled by their detestation of *practical tyranny*. No, do not press this question, until valid law is shown to support it; till then, it will be no farther answered."

Colonel Sharp was immediately denounced throughout the ranks of the old Court party as an *inquisitor*; a *tool* of the new Judges, who were called *usurpers*. In a publication made shortly after the events I have detailed, Mr. Sneed was made to speak of Colonel Sharp, as "a *public servant*, equally valuable and officious, practising, it would seem, for a future service, in another *inquisition*, by proposing questions for him [Mr. Sneed,] to answer, first extorted his replies, and then fined him for having broken open his house a

“second time.” Again:—“But you hear that I was treated with great lenity; and that *Mr. Attorney General, a man with qualities which render him useful to such a Court, but wanting all those which should belong to an officer of a constitutional government*, after anticipating the wishes of their honors, behaved with marked forbearance and politeness towards me, as did all the Court, especially Mr. Chief Justice. So history informs us that Pisistratus, of Athens, after usurping the sovereign power, was a most gracious and condescending tyrant.” Again:—“What freeman can bear to be governed by men without just authority? And yet, such are those who submit to an unconstitutional Court. If knowingly they submit, as Mr. Attorney, they may well be called *slaves; not freemen.*”

The Newspapers in the service of that party, throughout the State, indulged in language still more violent. A few extracts will prove this truth. The “Harbinger,” published in this place, by Humphrey Marshall, said on the 20th of April:—“The attempted overthrow of the constitutional Court of Appeals, is viewed as a case not less palpable or atrocious, than the *usurpation of Cæsar*. The important difference is, that Cæsar had an army, and the *Revolutionists of Kentucky*, have none, yet.” “A new system of inferior Courts, opens prospects to pretenders to judgeships, clerkships and lawyerships; for the honorable S. P. Sharp cant represent the Commonwealth every where, which may be the less regretted, as the noble example set in the case of Achilles Sneed, may form a precedent for interrogatories, that need only be copied to suit the case.” “Rome had her *Catalines* and *Cæsars* also; perhaps, Kentucky has yet awhile only her *Cataline*; but never did a country openly cherish the one, who was not soon infested with the other kind.” On the 10th of May, the same paper said:—“To violate the constitution, as the act of the last session which got up the new Court of Appeals does, is little less than TREASON. It has effected, so far, a REVOLUTION; and may be attended with the worst consequences of treason, even CIVIL WAR.” In a Maysville paper, the following language was held:—“To effect this, they declared Mr. Sneed to have been guilty of contempt of Court, and their arch inquisitor and Attorney General, Solomon P. Sharp, proposed sixteen questions in writing, to which they commanded Sneed to answer on oath! These questions were propounded by the Attorney General, Sharp. But, my countrymen, he should not be the object of your resentment. He is the ministerial officer, the miserable creature of the Court, and mere hangman of the Judges. You might as well be indignant at the wretch, who executed the unfortunate Sidney, and not at the Judges who condemned him, as at this *catspaw* of the Court. Give him then, your charitable contempt—he does not merit your serious displeasure.”

In another pamphlet, of which Mr. Sneed was made to appear as the author, the following language was held:—"In what did the replication to my pleading consist? Not in matters of avoidance founded in sound argument, or reason and common sense; but, in the hand of power, which, after directing me to be insulted with sixteen questions, degrading even to the pitiful Attorney General who drew them, I am fined ten pounds."

In the Commentator, there appeared a series of numbers, which were afterwards re-published in pamphlets, which were signed, the '*Spirit of '76.*' A more false and vindictive production, never issued from the brain of Marat or Robespierre. It was a series of *moral murders* from beginning to end, and the characters of the most worthy men were the most inhumanly mangled. The following is an extract relating to Colonel Sharp:—"This last conjecture cannot be true; for this *inquisitorial* Attorney General, cannot employ the English language with sufficient accuracy to be the father of this production. It is well known, that this Proteus was long enlisted on the side of the question opposite to that he now advocates; and it can be proved, that within a few evenings of the adjournment of the Legislature, last winter, after they had adopted their revolutionizing projects, he abused them, and accused them almost of corruption. But after their adjournment, contemplating the new order of things then arising, and supposing as Rowan was promoted, that he might become the Magnus Appollo of the faction, with that venality and versatility for which he has always been remarkable, *he cut a sumerset* with his brother, the Doctor, on his shoulders, fearing he might break his neck in the fall, and became the advocate of revolution; thus degrading the State he represents, and prostituting the office which he fills, by appearing for the Commonwealth before this band of usurpers. We might notice, in this place, the enviable system of *morality*, both public and private, for which he became famous, before he left the south of Green River; but you shall not be thus detained, and we will leave him to the affliction of that contempt, into which he will soon sink, when the enemies of your constitution are put down."

As this production was never *intended* to be true, it can hardly be necessary for me to say, that my brother freely gave his opinion in favor of the constitutionality of the re-organizing act before it passed, and in that opinion, I fully concurred.

These are but a few of the denunciations published against Colonel Sharp, before he became a candidate for the Legislature, and those that were *uttered* by some of the partizans of the old Court, were still more bitter and vindictive. Early in the season, the friends of the new Court had solicited him to become a candidate for the House of Representatives in Franklin county. He had no wish to engage in the turmoils of our State politics, and

firmly declined their most pressing solicitations. It was his wish to be left in the quiet exercise of his official duties and the practice of his profession. But the progress of events changed his determination. The malice and industry with which himself and every other prominent man of the new Court party, were every where denounced, led him to the conviction, that his own ruin, with that of many others, as well moral as political and professional, had been resolved on, and that there was no safety but in stepping forward and boldly encountering the storm. Alas! he knew not that he was even then, doomed to a speedy death!

Having made up his mind to become a candidate, he was announced in the *Argus of Western America*, on the 29th June, 1825. His friends and himself had long before that time been informed, that the materials had been collected, and that he would be publicly assailed with the old story of seducing Ann Cook, if he became a candidate. Uniformly, he declared his innocence of the charge, and said the knowledge that such an attack was intended, would rather stimulate him to offer than to forbear; because he should then have an opportunity of exhibiting to the world that ample vindication which was in his power. The threatened attack was not made; but the bitterness of denunciation rather increased than diminished. Already hated with the deepest malignity by political partisans, he was now likely to attain a station in which he was also to be feared.

Patrick Darby, though by his own confession not then a voter in this State, was thrust forward, or thrust himself forward, to make speeches against him on the stump throughout the county. At a public meeting in Frankfort, he openly charged Colonel Sharp with privately advising the Judges of the Federal Court to the adoption of their celebrated Rules, which he was then publicly opposing. This, my brother denied, and I now have the letter of Judge Trimble, declaring its entire falsehood.

Humphrey Marshall, in his *Harbinger*, of the 18th July, also charged Colonel Sharp with falsehood and hypocrisy, in an address commencing thus: "Being present in the Church to day, when you addressed the audience, had I not known you, although I should have seen that you were a pretender in politics, and a misleader of the people, I might have thought you sincere; for I know that a man may be both ignorant and honest." In his next paper, he had an article headed "SOLOMON P. SHARP," from which the following passages are extracted:—"The avowed and open enemy of the *relief system*, while he was disinterested; an opposer of Judge-breaking, before they were broken; a profligate in morals and a weather-cock in politics; a follower of majorities and a sycophant of power; now that the relief system is consummated by expelling three intelligent and honest Judges, and putting in four, who are a contrast to them; being

the majority's Judges, or, as Kendall, scandalizing the people, says, the people's Judges; why, now, this same Solomon P. Sharp will support the four Judges. I protest against this attempt to impose Solomon P. Sharp on them as a man fit to be elected by an honest community. Mr. Amos, well knowing the vulnerability of his *protege*, says, he expects him to be assailed; and that he understands, that the materials have been laid up for the purpose long since. Yes, Amos undoubtedly recollects documents which were in print prior to Mr. Sharp's being appointed Attorney for the Commonwealth, and which alleged several heavy charges against him, without being able to recollect that they were refuted; while the sagacity of expecting these charges may be renewed, and made known to the people of Franklin, is not denied to Mr. Kendall. But while I object to Mr. Sharp, as a Representative for Franklin, I shall not trouble myself to retrace his private character, nor to establish upon him the charge that was made, that while formerly a member of the Legislature, *he was a partner* in a fraudulent appropriation of land on the Mississippi; there is enough notorious in his conduct here, and of a recent date, to render him utterly unfit to represent intelligent men or virtuous citizens. Turn-coats, vanes and unprincipled demagogues, have been the curse and scourge of Kentucky. What more is required, to know and to understand the mind, spirit and principle of this Solomon P. Sharp, than to have ascertained, that he was the Attorney General of the Commonwealth, and made himself the ready *tool of usurpers*; lent himself to their violence and oppression in the case of the Clerk of the Court, instead of delivering a manly remonstrance against the proceedings. He betrayed the side of the constitution, and in doing that, deserted the true interests of the people."

Notwithstanding all this abuse and a variety of charges printed and spoken, always excepting that of having seduced Ann Cook, which was sometimes hinted at, Colonel Sharp, at the ensuing election, received 900 votes out of about 1600 given in the county of Franklin, beating his very popular competitor, John J. Crittenden, 69 votes.

Even after the election, Colonel Sharp was not suffered to rest without fresh attacks upon his motives and his character. The following is language held towards him by Humphrey Marshall, in his next paper after the election: "Was Mr. Sharp too ignorant to understand the constitution, and yet possessed of the requisite sense and common candor, called now by his new situation to reflect on his duties, some hope that he would yet be right, might be reasonably entertained. But if there be a *Cataline* in this conspiracy against the constitution, or if the triumvirate of Rowan, Bibb and Barry, are combined by means of the same kind of clandestine agents, with which our own State Court has

'been revolutionized, to re-organize the Supreme Court of the United States, in Mr. Sharp's conduct may be found evidence of his coalition. He, therefore, justly merits the suspicion of every friend to constitutional government, whether of the State, or of the United States."

Some time after the election, Mr. Marshall sold his printing office to Patrick Darby, and the name of his paper was changed from the Harbinger, to the Constitutional Advocate. In its zeal and bitterness, it underwent no change; but it became much worse in its tone and temper. Notwithstanding the old Court had secured a considerable majority in the House of Representatives, the leading men of the opposite party were still denounced with a ferocity, which seemed unwilling to be satisfied with any thing short of their extermination. In his paper of October 19th, 1825, Darby, in an article relative to Mr. Crittenden, has the following passage:—"O, John! John! thou incorrigible heretic! How long wilt thou resist the divine spirit of relief, and the prayers of these holy fathers? Turn! oh, turn! thou perverse sinner, and behold the tears of such saints as Joseph Desha! John Rowan! George M. Bibb and William T. Barry! pouring themselves out for their transgressions! Why wilt thou not look to the *humble spirit* of thy brother Solomon, and follow his example? For many years, *he, too*, resisted the workings of the spirit of relief and denied the prayers of these pious fathers and the creed of their holy see! Look at him now! 'Caught up' by the spirit of the times and the apparent general change of opinion, and listening to the prayers and the *promises* of these holy fathers, he bowed himself an humble penitent, and received the forgiveness and the benedictions of the holy see," &c. In his paper of the 26th October, he thus concludes an article:—"The friends of the Constitution do not fear a war. We have understood before, that the Governor was under arms!!!! They are innocent, however, as he carries them in his *breeches*. Should he take it into his head to use them, to force another department, he might want Judges without the power of making them. We presume, the Governor feels, that he has difficulties enough of that kind, on his hands already. Murder and rapine! political discord and civil war, are the popular themes, however, of those who support his administration. This may be a just punishment which the people have to suffer, for elevating men to power, who seek their confidence by sowing the seeds of discord, and prostituting principles before held sacred." In his paper of 2d of November, he says:—"Give these men their sweep, and what sort of a state would they have? With falsehood and calumny for their system of education and instruction, degraded with ignorance and corrupted with vice, they would present a picture of horror, confusion and disorder, that would frighten a

'fiend! They would be like the man who made a false face, and 'looking in the glass, was frightened at his own appearance.' And four days afterwards, one of "*these men*" was murdered in his own house!

Having now detailed a few of the denunciations which were publicly promulgated against Colonel Sharp, both individually and in conjunction with his party, I shall now attempt to develop what were the means by which Beauchamp was exasperated to the commission of his murder.

As to any threats uttered by him previous to the year 1825, I do not take them as any proof of malice, especially when contrasted with his language and conduct which I have already detailed. That he made threats, I have no doubt; and that he threatened a hundred men with equal appearances of sincerity, is equally certain. He was in the constant habit, when conversing about other persons, of uttering the same violent denunciations against them, apparently without motive or design.

Beauchamp was himself, a violent old Court partisan, and was doubtless, highly stimulated by the denunciations contained in the papers of his party, especially against Colonel Sharp, who was looked upon as an apostate from their cause, and was equally dangerous to them on account of his great acquirements, acknowledged talents and extensive business. The moment he was spoken of as a candidate, every means was put in requisition to deter him from that step, and crush him if he dared to take it. To a gentleman in this town, John U. Waring stated, that he received from this place fourteen letters, requesting copies of his publication against Colonel Sharp. A correspondence was also opened with other persons, with the same object. Beauchamp, himself, received several letters from Frankfort, which were known, at the time, to have exasperated him to the highest degree. He was also visited at his own house, it is believed, by more than one individual, who held conversations with him, in relation to Colonel Sharp. As this intercourse between individuals of the old Court party at Frankfort and Beauchamp, has been stoutly denied, I deem it my duty to give to the public the evidence on which I have made the assertion.

In the first place, Beauchamp himself asserted, at all times and under all circumstances, after he first made confession of the murder, that he had, at that time, received letters from Frankfort, which had exasperated him against Colonel Sharp. In his first confession, I understand, he stated that it was those letters, together with the circumstances detailed to him in an interview or interviews with certain individuals at his own house, which induced him to commit the crime. After he had recanted that confession and acquitted Darby, he still persisted in declaring that he had received a letter or letters from Frankfort, which had in-

creased his exasperation against Colonel Sharp. In his confession, as finally published, he says:

"Some little time before the election, I received a letter from a gentleman, who at the time, lived in the whole world, informing me of the reports and insinuations which Colonel Sharp and his family had circulated, that the child of my wife was a mulatto. I say, this gentleman lived in the whole world. I will not give any more definite description of him, lest, peradventure, I might minister to the cravings of Desha and his satellites, for some pretext of detraction from the merit which their envy hates. He was not, as they would fain insinuate, influenced by political jealousy or personal envy, to write this letter. For he was as much superior to Colonel Sharp, or any other of Desha's satellites, or Desha himself, as his principles were more pure or his mind more honorable than theirs. His letter was written in a spirit of pure, honorable and disinterested justice; because he thought it right I should know of this vile conduct of Colonel Sharp and his family, and *set them right*. Neither will I give any thing of his letter more, than just that it gave me the information about the report of the negro child, lest Desha's apes should pretend to found thereon, some basis for their random guesses for the author. It is sufficient to say, he was a man, on whose word I would, and *have* resigned my life. And he wrote me, that the Sharps had set afloat insinuations that the child of Miss Cook was a mulatto, in order to do away the charge against the Colonel, for seduction."

In saying that he *had* resigned his life upon the word of this man, he admits that he committed the murder in consequence of the letter, notwithstanding his pretence that he had determined on it in 1821, which the reader already knows to be false. It seems also, that the letter-writer *intended* to provoke Beauchamp to some violent course; for he not only thought it *right*, that he should know of the conduct of Colonel Sharp and family, but that he should also *'set them right!'* On his way to the gallows, he repeated to Mr. M'Intosh, the jailer, that he had received such a letter or letters from Frankfort. Though I would take no statement of his to be true because he said so, yet his persisting in this under all circumstances, makes it probable. But that he had such letters, I have the most direct and positive proof. The following statements, are from neighbors of Beauchamp, who were often at his house:

"I was at Jerry O. Beauchamp's, the evening after he returned from Frankfort and committed the murder of Colonel Solomon P. Sharp. Some time after dark, Ann Beauchamp, wife of Jerobam O. Beauchamp, took down a little bag of dried fruit, ripped open one corner of it and took out a bundle of rags which appear-

ed to be carefully wrapped up and fastened. On unrolling them, she took out a letter and handed it to her husband, and asked him if it ought not to be burned. He opened and read it, and then put it in the fire and burnt it. I afterwards heard that there had been other letters secreted, which Beauchamp had received from Frankfort, that had induced him to commit the murder, and that on Mrs. Beauchamp's being taken by the officer, she left directions with her negro woman to burn them; since which time, I have seen the negro, and she tells me, her mistress did give her such directions, and she did, as soon as her mistress was taken away, get them out and burn them. 18th August, 1826.

MARY PRESCOTT.

Witness—RICHARD HOLLIWAY.

"Some days before the trial and conviction of Jeroboam O. Beauchamp, for the murder of Colonel Solomon P. Sharp, I was at his house, in conversation with his wife, Ann Beauchamp, about his probable conviction. She appeared to express great uneasiness about his situation, and observed, that if I could keep a secret, she could tell me something. On my assuring her I could, she said, that her husband was not the only person who ought to be made to suffer for that crime; that her husband was induced to commit the murder from letters which he had received from Frankfort, informing him of the statements Colonel Sharp was making with regard to her, and that if he was hung for it, others deserved hanging as much as him; and that Patrick H. Darby had been at their house one day and night locked up with her husband in his office, and that he had been to see her once, since her husband had been taken to jail; that he and others, had written those letters, exciting them to the commission of the crime. I recollect her mentioning the names of ———, but cannot say with certainty, whether she said they had written the letters, or whether they had been at their house for the purpose of exciting them against Colonel Sharp; and that if her husband had not killed Colonel Sharp, others were to have done it. A short time previous to her being taken by the officer to Frankfort, I saw her go to a bed and rip open one corner of it, and take out some letters that had been secreted there, and burn them. She said, at the same time, these are some of the letters which was received by my husband, that induced him to kill Colonel Sharp. She further observed, that Colonel Sharp had never injured her, and that she never felt any unfriendly feelings towards him, except what had been made by the receipt of those letters; but that Doctor Sharp had spoken ill of her, and against him, she showed great irritation. Early in the morning, after Mrs. Beauchamp was taken by the officer, I saw her negro woman go to the same bed where

her mistress had a few days before taken some letters, and took out some more letters, which she burnt, and said her mistress got an opportunity of speaking to her while in custody of the officer, and directed her to do so.

her
MARTHA X DOWELL,
 mark.

Attest—W. LYNCH.

"Simpson County, Sct.

This day, Martha Dowell personally came before me, a Justice of the Peace for Simpson county, and made oath, that the foregoing certificate contains a true statement of facts. Given under my hand and seal, this 17th of August, 1826.

W. HODGE, J. P. S. C.

Taken in conjunction with Beauchamp's own uniform declarations, this evidence must be conclusive. As nearly as I can learn, these statements correspond precisely with his first confession, and they certainly do with the representation made of it at the time by his uncle. The fact that these statements were given after he had recanted that confession in part, and exonerated the individual at first by name implicated, when the persons giving them well knew of his recantation, is evidence that the first confession was in that respect true.

The following statement will show, that before Beauchamp's trial, his father was apprized of the existence of these letters:

"FRANKLIN, April 22d, 1826.

Dear Sir:

You request me in your letter, to give you a statement of a conversation which I had with Thomas Beauchamp, Esq. during last winter, relative to the murder of Colonel Sharp, and the person most likely to have committed it, when on my way from Frankfort. During that trip, I had several conversations with the said gentleman on this subject and relative to the prosecution against his son, Jeroboam O. Beauchamp; in which I uniformly intimated to Mr. Beauchamp, that from all the circumstances, I inclined to think his son guilty. In one conversation which I had with him, he was expressing a belief that the murder was committed by some 'minion, or tool of the old Court party.' I told him I had apprehended myself that his murder had been brought about for political purposes; but that I did not doubt but that his son had committed the act, or words to that amount. He said, if his son was guilty, he had been induced to it by some one in Frankfort, as he knew of no enmity between him and Colonel Sharp, and that he had been receiving letters from Frankfort, or Franklin county, I am not cer-

tain which, nor am I certain whether he named one, two, or three letters. I am not certain whether this conversation took place between Perryville and Lebanon, or the morning we crossed Big Barren River, or between that and Robert Hendricks', where we staid all night.

I am, with great respect, &c. your friend,

THOMAS M. SMITH.

CAPT. K. STEVENSON.

His own uniform declarations, the direct testimony of his neighbors, and the knowledge of his own father, are surely sufficient to settle the point, that he did receive letters from Frankfort.

But one of these statements tends to prove another material fact, viz. that Mr. Darby had been at the house of Beauchamp, both before and after the murder. This fact, as to the first visit, was also asserted by Beauchamp and his wife in jail, recanted and reasserted. The following extract from a statement of the jailer, will show, that they persisted in this charge against Darby, *after* the confession, exonerating him, *was written*; and when they supposed themselves on the very brink of eternity, Mrs. Beauchamp was even desirous to confirm it by her oath:

"Mrs. Beauchamp persisted in declaring that Darby had been at their house; this declaration she made even on the evening on which they took the laudanum, and that the Governor refused the respite, and requested that Colonel Beauchamp, his uncle, should then take her deposition to prove that fact, contending that she intended to die with her husband, and that it was important for him to prove that by her oath; and that Beauchamp, the day after they had taken the laudanum, stated to me at two different times, that Darby was guilty of a participation in the murder."

That Darby had been at Beauchamp's house before the murder, is made certain by *his own* confession. After Beauchamp was brought back to Frankfort, in a conversation with Benjamin Hardin, Esq. who had agreed to aid in the prosecution, F. C. Sharp and myself expressed fears that we could not procure sufficient evidence at the examining Court, to commit him for further trial. Mr. Hardin said, we need not be uneasy; for there was a lawyer in Frankfort, who had heard him make threats, and if it was necessary, he would be called forward. On pressing him, he told us it was Patrick Darby. My brother expressed his doubts of the truth of the story, and to satisfy our minds, Mr. Hardin repeated to us a description of Mrs. Beauchamp, which he had received from Darby. Mr. Hardin had never seen Mrs. Beauchamp, but I was well acquainted with her, and at once pronounced that the description fitted. We had then no doubt, that Mr. Darby told the truth in that particular, and I have none now.

To satisfy my own mind perfectly, I went in pursuit of Mr. Darby, and meeting him on the street, I told him what I had learnt from Mr. Hardin, and requested him to detail the facts to me. He seemed startled; said that what he had told Mr. Hardin, was confidential; that he did not wish to be called on as a witness, and declined a communication to me. On my urging him to tell me all he knew, he finally proposed, that if I would call at his room the next day, he would do so. I called accordingly, and Mr. Darby detailed the story as I had heard it through Mr. Hardin, except that he said he did not recollect certainly, when or where the conversation between him and Beauchamp took place. However, I had no doubt that Mr. Darby had been at Beauchamp's house; and I have since, I think, comprehended the cause of his forgetting it, which will be noticed in due time. The fact is now confirmed by Beauchamp's own statements and those of his wife, made in part, at times when they could have no motive to speak falsely on the subject.

From this evidence, I think I am justified in the assertion, that Beauchamp not only received letters from Colonel Sharp's political enemies at Frankfort, but that Mr. Darby, if not other individuals, actually visited his house. That the object of these letters or visits was to procure Beauchamp to murder my brother, I will not assert, for I do not know; but that they produced that dreadful result, I do firmly believe.

Colonel Sharp, as already stated, was announced as a candidate in the Argus, on the 29th June, 1825. The annunciation was accompanied by the following editorial remarks:

"Already we are informed, that Mr. Sharp is to be most relentlessly assailed, both in his public and private character, and even that the weapons have been secretly preparing for months. It is well. It cannot be expected, that a party which has assailed even Mr. Barry, with a rancor and falsehood, which only Devils can excel, will spare Mr. Sharp, or any other man who thrusts himself athwart the path of their ambition."

The 'weapons' here alluded to, were papers relative to the alleged seduction of Ann Cook, and other charges of misconduct in the Green River country, which my brother's political enemies had long said were ready for him, if he came out as a candidate. Many of his friends who were desirous for him to offer, had become alarmed at the confident manner in which it was asserted he would be crushed with this story of seduction, and had conversed with him on the subject. Uniformly he had stated that he was innocent, and could prove it, and that those threats would rather induce him to offer than otherwise, as it would afford him an opportunity to do so.

While these weapons were preparing, Beauchamp had already taken the dreadful resolution. A few days after Colonel Sharp became a candidate he received the following letter, post marked, Bowlinggreen, July 1st.

ALLEN COUNTY, June 27, 1825.

Dear Sir:

I wrote you during the last days ultimo, and have been something surprized at not having received your answer; but suppose you have either not received my letter, or most probably, have been too much engaged as yet, to give it attention. I beg, however, you will give the earliest possible attention to this, as it is a matter to me of the greatest importance; not knowing but that, (if it has not *already*), a claim, which is the subject of the present, as well as my former letter, may, I know not how soon, be barred by the strictness of your Kentucky land law, especially as your legislature appears particularly inimical to us "*non residents*." My grandfather had a military claim for 5,000 acres of land in what is now Allen county. Myself and one sister are now heirs to it. My grandfather in his lifetime was in this country to see about it; and, as I have learned, Grundy, now of Tennessee, who then lived in Kentucky, pronounced the claim indisputably good; and undertook to gain the land for one fifth, or else have nothing. The old gentleman returned to Virginia and died, and Grundy left the State; so that nothing was done in the matter. It was supposed the papers had been left with Grundy, as some of them were never seen after my grandfather's death; but Grundy is unable to find them, or to tell whether they were left with him or not. My father was abroad on business, a good part of his time, and while at home, so much engaged, that he still neglected the matter, and finally died in the West-Indies, without having done any thing in it, while, too, I was a small boy; since which time, those who have had the management of our estate, have been so much deterred by the terror of the intricacies of Kentucky land law, and its rigor towards non-residents, that they also have neglected the claim. In May last, I arrived in this country, in order to search up the claim; and I have been advised by every body I have talked with here, to put the business into your hands. From the information I have gained, I am resolved to prosecute the claim to the utmost, and spare no expense which will be likely to gain it, as it will, if gained, be an object; the land being good. I went to last May Court at Bowlinggreen, as I was told you were to be there; as you were not, I wrote you from thence, by a gentleman going right through Frankfort, who said he knew you, and would give you the letter himself; a Mr. Jones. I was told at Court, your business would certainly call you down into this country soon, at least at August Circuit Court, if not sooner. If so, I

wish you to write me as soon as you receive this; at what time you will be down through this country. I would probably have been in Frankfort, before now; but if you will be in this country this summer, I would prefer it; because I am extremely anxious to get some of the most important witnesses to go and let you talk to them yourself, satisfactorily, and gain from them fully, what can be proven by them on every necessary point of evidence it may be necessary to produce. On talking with you, and you with the witnesses, if you had as soon, I will give you any reasonable interest in the claim, short of one half; or, if you prefer it, compensate you in money; and as we are strangers, I shall not think it unreasonable to advance to you so much as will pay you well for your trouble, at all events; and make you satisfied as to any conditional fee we may further agree upon, or any you may demand, in the event of your gaining the suit. In the mean time, I remain your most obedient, humble servant,

ZEBULON X. YANTIS.

COLONEL SOLOMON P. SHARP,
Attorney at Law.

P. S. Please to direct your letter to Franklin, Simpson county, Kentucky, as I may leave this before it arrives, and in that event, I have an acquaintance in Franklin, on whom I can depend, to give it a speedy conveyance to whatever place I may leave these counties for.

Z. X. Y.

After his conviction, Beauchamp described this letter to the jailer, and upon that description I found it among my brother's papers, endorsed, 'Answered 8th August, 1825.' Beauchamp said, and no doubt truly, that he had forged this letter to Colonel Sharp, for the purpose of ascertaining certainly, when he would visit the Green River country, with the intention of murdering him there.

It will be perceived that this letter is dated 27th of June; and consequently, while infuriated partisans at Frankfort, were threatening to crush Colonel Sharp with the charge of seducing Ann Cook, her husband had determined to take his life.

But the attack which had been so loudly threatened at Frankfort, was never made. Except a few dark allusions, the whole story of this much talked of seduction, was permitted to slumber. To myself, and the friends of Colonel Sharp, this forbearance then appeared extraordinary. As no means however base, and no charges however false, were spared, when by their use, any prominent man of the new Court party could be made to suffer, it was a matter of astonishment, that Waring's handbill was not re-published, garnished with all the additional ornaments of false

charges which the implacable animosity of the times could produce. I have seen no more certain or probable reason for forbearance than was given by Beauchamp, as stated by the jailer:

"Beauchamp told me, Darby had written to him to make out such a statement of facts in his wife's case, as he was willing should be used against Colonel Sharp, and that Beauchamp in reply informed him, they should not use his wife's name in connexion with her former shame before the public, and that the man who did it, should die for it; but as far as Colonel Sharp had ventured in the matter, he would make him account for it himself."

This, at once, accounts for the singular forbearance which was exercised towards Colonel Sharp on this point. Beauchamp had already been informed, that he charged his wife with having had a mulatto child; he had refused to suffer the name of his wife to be used in the political contest, and had even determined that Colonel Sharp should die, as is proved by the forged letter of June the 27th.

But there are good grounds for believing, that there were individuals in Frankfort, who knew Beauchamp had threatened to kill Colonel Sharp before the election. A presumption of this nature arises from the fact, that he had formed the determination as early as the 27th of June; that Colonel Sharp became a candidate on the 29th of June, and that the threatened attempt to prevent his election by introducing Mrs. Beauchamp into the controversy, was not made. This presumption was reduced to a certainty by facts which have since been disclosed.

On Beauchamp's trial, Mr. Darby swore, that after Colonel Sharp was announced as a candidate, Mr. Thomas Carrol told him, at the Circuit Court in Elizabethtown, that if he were elected, *Beauchamp would not let him take his seat in the Legislature*. It is true, Carrol was not there after the annunciation of Colonel Sharp, nor was there any Circuit Court in that place, after that event, before the election; but the oath of Mr. Darby indicates, that the expression was familiar to him at that early day, and it is more than probable, that he had actually heard this threat at Beauchamp's house or elsewhere, and with a fatality which is peculiar to him, had forgot the place where he heard it, and the man by whom it was uttered.

But the same threat was heard in the streets of Frankfort, about the time of the election. Mrs. Mary Connell stated on oath before the Grand Jury which indicted Beauchamp, that she had heard it. But Mr. Darby afterwards visited her, and by his abuse so alarmed her, that she dare not appear before the Pettit Jury. She has, however, given me a statement of what she heard, varying probably only in the mention of certain names, from her evidence before the Grand Jury. On that occasion, she was ex-

H.

pecially cautioned (by the foreman) not to mention names. Her statement is as follows:

"On the Saturday night preceding the election in the year 1825, I heard several persons in conversation under the window of the house where I then lived, to which my attention was drawn by the following circumstances: I had a son who I had heard had stabbed a man in Bowlinggreen; he had lately been to see me, and denied it; had staid but a short time and had gone to Lexington, and I was afraid had deceived me. The men under my window were talking angrily, and I heard them mention Bowlinggreen, which induced me to suspect they were in pursuit of my son. I therefore went to the window and listened. There were, I believe, four persons. I soon discovered that the conversation was about politics, and I heard threats made against the Governor, Mr. Blair, Mr. Kendall, Mr. Monroe and some others. They spoke of the election, and some said that Colonel Sharp would be elected; others, that he would not. One man said in a very angry manner, that if he were elected, Beauchamp, whose wife Colonel Sharp had treated so rascally, in the Green river country, would never let him take his seat in the Legislature; that he deserved to be killed and should be killed. I thought I knew three of the men, and my impression was so strong that their threats would be executed, that I told my father what I had heard, and asked him whether I ought not to inform the persons threatened. He told me I had better inform some discreet person of it, and let it be communicated to them. During the election and soon afterwards, I communicated the threats to several persons connected with those whose lives were threatened. Among others, I told Mr. Foster, with a hope that he would try to prevent any thing serious. I started to go to Colonel Sharp's, to inform his family; but I saw some company there and did not go in. I still intended to inform them, but Mr. Foster told me it was some gasconading threats which ought not to be noticed.

MARY CONNELL."

May 2, 1827.

The undersigned states, that Mrs. Connell came to his house a few days after the election, in the year 1825, and communicated that threats had been made against the lives of the persons above named, and expressed fears that they might be executed.

JOHN M. FOSTER.

The undersigned states, that his daughter, Mrs. Connell, made the above statements to him on the first day of the election of 1825.

HENRY ROBERTS.

Mr. Darby has alluded to this evidence in some of his publications, as totally unworthy of belief, and asserted that Mrs. Connell was a mere instrument in the hands of others, to fix the guilt of assassination on him and the old Court party. To prove the falsehood of that imputation, I have shown by the statements of two gentlemen, whose word will not be doubted, that she communicated the threats to them long before Colonel Sharp was assassinated. She also communicated this conversation, as is well known to me, to other individuals connected with the families of those who were threatened. I cannot conceive what could have induced her to fabricate this tale, if it was not true; and it would be not a little remarkable, were she to have invented a story which corresponded so well with other circumstances and with the actual result. Mr. Darby had also heard it said, that Beauchamp would not suffer Colonel Sharp to take his seat in the Legislature, and it so turned out. How could Mrs. Connell have known this, unless she heard the conversation which she repeats? I consider these circumstances conclusive as to the truth of her statement.

But her statement does not depend for its support on its analogy with the expression sworn to by Mr. Darby, or on its exact coincidence with the result; for a similar remark was heard in Frankfort, by another person, after the election. I regret that I was not apprized of this fact until he had left Frankfort for Florida; for I have not the least doubt, he would have confirmed it by his oath, if necessary. But in the following statement, I have evidence of the fact which will not be doubted.

"General George Baltzell stated to me, in conversations at two different times, that he did hear it stated in Frankfort, a few days after the election in the year 1825, that Colonel Sharp would never live to take his seat in the Legislature.

ROGER DEVINE.

May 3, 1827.

The evidence of Mr. Darby, Mrs. Connell and General Baltzell, taken in conjunction with Beauchamp's own declarations and the forbearance of Colonel Sharp's political enemies in not assailing him with the story about seducing Ann Cook before the election, lead my mind irresistably to the conclusion, that the determination, or at least a *threat* of Beauchamp, that he should not take his seat in the Legislature, was well known to some few individuals in Frankfort. It was said in our streets, that Colonel Sharp would never take his seat in the Legislature, and it so happened. How could this have been known, and on what was it predicated? I have already shown, that a correspondence was carried on between Beauchamp and some person or persons in Frankfort, and that Mr. Darby visited his house. Through these

letters, or through Mr. Darby, must he have received all the information he had of the conduct of Colonel Sharp, and through the same channel must his threats have reached certain individuals in Frankfort. He was informed *falsely*, as I will prove, that Colonel Sharp was circulating a report that his wife had borne a mulatto child, and this fact added to his political hatred, was at least his apology for the foul crime which he committed. Nothing is more probable, than that he informed them, while he refused to suffer his wife's name to be used, that "*as far as Colonel Sharp had ventured in that matter, he would make him account for it himself,*" and that if a candidate and elected, "*he never should take his seat in the Legislature.*" In the mean time, Beauchamp entered fully into the feelings of his political friends in Frankfort. Shortly after the election, he made a journey into the country below the Tennessee river. While upon that trip, his conversations frequently turned upon political subjects and Colonel Sharp, as the following statements will prove:

WAIDSBOROUGH.

Being requested to make a statement of the conversations I had with Jeroboam O. Beauchamp, during his stay in this place, some time about the last of September, 1825, I do certify, that in conversation, said Beauchamp spoke of Colonel Solomon P. Sharp, as a politician and a lawyer; he admitted the Colonel was a man of talents, but appeared to be very much embittered against him for his principles as a politician, and said he did not believe that the Colonel was honest in his politics. Given under my hand, this 27th February, 1826.

J. W. CALLOWAY.

Being called on, I, Ephraim Heath, do certify, that some time in the month of September, 1825, Jerry O. Beauchamp stopped at my house, and in a conversation with him, I observed I had always voted for Colonel Solomon P. Sharp, and he, said Beauchamp, replied, "that any man who would vote for Colonel Sharp, ought to be damned;" and he continued cursing Colonel Sharp, and appeared to be very hostile to him for his political conduct only. Given under my hand, this 24th April, 1826.

EPHRAIM HEATH.

It will be remembered, that at this time he had determined to take Colonel Sharp's life, and that this trip to the country West of the Tennessee, was undertaken after he had come to that determination. His avowed object was to look out a place for his future residence. I have suspected, that he never intended to go to Missouri, as he pretended, and that this idea was held out to deceive the world. He made endeavors to employ persons to assist

him as far as Hopkinsville, but no further; and from all the circumstances, I am led to suspect, that he did not mean to travel much further than that place, in the direction of Missouri. I have thought it more probable, that he already had a home provided on this side of the Mississippi. But I have no *positive* evidence on this point which will authorize me to make the assertion that he had.

Uniting all the facts enumerated and proved in this chapter, Colonel Sharp's agency in organizing the new Court, the denunciations which followed, the rumor that he would become a candidate, the correspondence with Waring and Beauchamp to obtain the means of crushing him, the actual collection of the materials, Beauchamp's determination to kill him before the 27th of June, the failure to use the story of Ann Cook against him, and the repeated declaration that if elected, he would never take his seat in the Legislature, is there a candid mind in the world, which will not at once admit, that the intention to commit this murder was as well known to a few persons in Frankfort, as to Beauchamp himself?

I say, a "*few persons*." I disclaim every idea that the party opposed to my brother, or any considerable number of individuals, conspired his death, or knew any thing of Beauchamp's intentions. There are few indeed, who would not have instantly communicated to him the threat, if it had come to their knowledge. But from the facts now placed before the public, it is impossible for me not to believe, that there were a few men, a *very few*, who, if they did not directly aid, took no step to prevent a murder, which they knew was intended. Nor will I say that *none* of them were directly aiding in the very crime.

CHAPTER VI.

The murder—Beauchamp suspected and arrested.

THE time at which Colonel Sharp was to take his seat in the Legislature now approached. Jeroboam O. Beauchamp, having returned from his trip to the country beyond the Tennessee river, sold off all his property at public auction, and gave out that he was about to remove to the State of Missouri. He left home under pretence of escaping from a warrant for bastardy, which was out against him, and at Bowlinggreen, stated that he was going to Edmondson county, to sell some land. However, he took no pains to avoid being observed on the road, and after being seen

by several persons who knew him, arrived in Frankfort on the night of the 6th of November. He first went to the Mansion House for entertainment, and then to Captain Weisiger's Tavern; but as both houses were too full to accommodate him as he desired, he was directed to the house of Mr. Joel Scott, Keeper of the Penitentiary. This was Sunday, the day preceding the meeting of the Legislature. In the early part of the day, my brother was in his office, which was a part of his dwelling house; and his lady having got ready to go to meeting, started to ask him to go with her. As she approached the office door, she heard Mr. Darby's voice, in conversation with her husband, and stopping, heard him ask where Mr. Bass lay. This was a young gentleman who had been a student of my brother's, and was then lying sick in the house. Colonel Sharp told him, and supposing that he wanted to see Mr. Bass, offered to conduct him to the room. Mr. Darby declined, and took his leave. Mrs. Sharp was surprised at Mr. Darby's visit, after his conduct towards her husband, and enquired of the latter what he wanted? Colonel Sharp said he did not know, but suspected that he came as a spy, for the purpose of discovering what he was preparing for the Legislature; and from an apprehension that he might call and examine his papers in his absence, he enjoined it upon Mrs. Sharp to keep the street door of his office locked, when he was out. During Mr. Darby's visit, I was in Mr. Bass' room and distinctly heard his voice through the partition. I also heard my brother mention his suspicion of Mr. Darby's object, after he was gone.

My brother then proposed to his lady to read to her on that day instead of going to meeting, to which she readily assented. In the evening, many members of the Legislature were arriving, and he went to see them at the different public houses. He had a compromise of our judicial troubles much at heart, and was even then commencing his measures to bring about that desirable result. He remained conversing with the members at various rooms, with uncommon cheerfulness and vivacity, until about eleven o'clock, when he returned home and immediately retired to bed.

Until within six or eight days, my brother and his family had occupied as a bed-room, the room in which Mr. Bass at that time lay. By recurring to the plan of his house, the reader will perceive the position of those rooms, the relation to each other, to the rest of the house and to the street. The passage door upon the street is numbered 1, the office door 2, the passage door upon the porch 3, the door of Bass' room 4, the door of the dining room 5, the door of Colonel Sharp's room 6; all these four last doors opening upon the porch; the door opening from the dining room into the alley at which the murderer entered 7, and the door from Colonel Sharp's room into the dining room 8. The narrow alley extending the whole length of the house and across the lot, was

separated from General South's lot by a high plank fence, and had a high gate at the end opening into the street which was securely fastened. The door in the alley was barely visible from the street, and many of the people of Frankfort did not know of its existence. It was very little used by the family, and sometimes kept closed entirely. On looking at the plan, the reader will perceive that the murderer knew Colonel Sharp was not sleeping in Bass' room, his former bed-room; that he knew precisely where his victim was, and by knocking at what door, he could certainly draw him forth without alarming any other portion of the family sleeping out of that room. Every one of the doors 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, were more readily to be found by a stranger, than the door in the alley; but a knocking at any of them might alarm those sleeping in Bass' room, or the servants in the kitchen. Not only was that door the only one at which a knocking would rouse nobody but the victim, but the person going there to draw Colonel Sharp out of his bed-room, must have known something of the inner door numbered 8.

Beauchamp had arrived in town after dark, alone and a perfect stranger. He was directed to Joel Scott's, where he alighted and remained until near 9 o'clock. He then went out, was gone 20 or 30 minutes, returned and requested to be shown to his bed. Late in the night, he was heard to go down stairs, unbolt the door and go out. In his confession, he says, he went out before Mr. Scott's family went to bed; but there is one circumstance which proves the entire falsehood of his statement. Few housekeepers in Frankfort leave their doors unfastened, when they go to bed; and Mr. Scott bolts his on the inside. If Beauchamp had gone out, as he says, before the family went to bed, he would have been fastened out and could not have got back again without arousing the family. But he went out and returned; so that he must have gone out after the family went to bed, having unbolted the door himself. About the time Mr. Scott heard him go out, he was met in the street, walking very slowly towards Mr. Darby's office, and not far from it. He was then going in a different direction from my brother's house; and where he went I know not. Not far from that time also, some blacks passing Col. Sharp's house, saw two men standing on the pavement in front, but did not recognize them. How Beauchamp, alone and a stranger, could find the house, could ascertain precisely where Col. Sharp slept, could find the door, the most secluded and private of any that entered the house, but the only one to which, with safety and certainty, he could draw his victim; that he should display a more intimate knowledge of a house he had never seen in daylight, than was possessed by most of our citizens, I could never account for upon any other supposition than that he had an accomplice or accomplices. I beg the reader to

look at the plan, to place himself in Beauchamp's situation, entering a strange town, after dark, entirely alone, and then ask himself whether he could have acquired, without assistance, all the information which was necessary to enable him to approach Col. Sharp's bed-room through the door at which Beauchamp entered?

Besides, Beauchamp, after being out only 20 or 30 minutes, much too short a period to walk to Col. Sharp's and acquire any knowledge of his house from observation, had he even known where to find it, retired to bed at Mr. Scott's about nine o'clock, and did not go out until late in the night. He was not, therefore, lurking round the house early in the night, as he pretends, nor could he have ascertained in what room Col. Sharp slept by his own observation. Mr. Scott could not tell precisely at what time he went out; but he supposed it must have been about one o'clock. Long before that hour, all lights were extinguished in Col. Sharp's room, and of course Beauchamp never could have found it, and more particularly could never have ascertained the best and safest way to approach it, except by the most direct and minute information from other persons. Not only was there no light in Col. Sharp's room at the hour when Beauchamp left Mr. Scott's, but there was a light in Mr. Bass' room, which was kept up all night in consequence of his illness. A perfect stranger who knew nothing of the interior situation of the house, nor of the condition of its inmates, would certainly have taken the room where he saw a light, to be the family room, instead of a room which was entirely dark, and to him wholly unknown. He must therefore have been informed, that a sick man was lying in the lighted room, and been pointed directly to the room where Col. Sharp lay, by some person who knew the facts previous to that night, especially as the lighted room had actually been Col. Sharp's bed-room through the summer, and until within six or eight days.

Notwithstanding his positive denial in his confession, that he had any accomplice, he makes two direct admissions that he had. One I have already noticed, in his declaration that he received certain information from Frankfort as to the conduct of Col. Sharp and his family, with a view that he should "*set them right*," and the other is in the following words: "*I learned from a source which the offer of life would scarcely wring from me, where Col. Sharp's house was.*"

It hence appears, that some person, *whom he knew*, showed him the house, and there was so much responsibility attached to the act, that the offer of life would scarcely wring the name of the person from him. How happened it, that Beauchamp, in the night, found, in the streets of a strange town, a man whom he knew? How happened it, if the house was innocently shown, that Beauchamp should be so backward to name this individual?

It is evident, that a fearful responsibility attached to this man, and that Beauchamp considered himself bound, in consequence of the aid he had given him, never to reveal his name.

When it is considered, that Beauchamp retired to bed early and did not go out until one o'clock, it must necessarily be concluded, that this man, whose name "*the offer of life would scarcely wring from him,*" must not only have shown him the house, but pointed out the room occupied by Col. Sharp and the door by which it could be most securely approached. It was doubtless this information which led him to climb over a high gate, in quest of a door in a private alley, instead of knocking at the front door or any other in the house which would have jeopardized the execution of his design.

Col. Sharp had been in bed a little more than two hours, when Mrs. Sharp was awakened by a knocking at the door which opened from the dining room into the alley. The knocking was repeated, and she then aroused her husband. She then proposed to go to the door and see who was there; but he would not permit her. He got up in his night clothes, and opening the door into the dining room, asked who was there? A strange voice answered, "your friend, John A. Covington," and he said he "had been knocking at the front door." Several Covingtons were known to my brother and his lady, but no John A. Covington. Mrs. Sharp, hearing this name in a strange voice, got up and went to the door which opens into the dining room. Col. Sharp, as he was attempting to open the door, enquired of the stranger what had made him so late? He replied, "that he had lost his way or been belated on the other side of the river, and having found the taverns all full, could not get in, but knew he could get lodgings here." Col. Sharp said, "yes, certainly, come in and I will have a bed prepared for you." After some difficulty, he succeeded in opening the door, and the stranger entered. By the little light which shone in as the door opened, Mrs. Sharp had a distinct view of him as he entered. He extended his hand, took that of my brother, and asked, "is this Col. Sharp?" "Yes," answered my brother. The stranger then said, "my name is John A. Covington—dont you know me?" Col. Sharp replied, "I dont think I do." The stranger then said, "you soon shall." A struggle seemed to ensue, and Mrs. Sharp ran back through her room, out upon the porch, to Bass' room, and aroused her brother, Doct. Scott, who was sleeping there, enquiring for a pistol, and telling him somebody was in the house murdering Col. Sharp. She directed him to bring a candle, and ran back to the door opening from the dining room upon the porch, but found it locked. She then ran back through her own room, but as she started from the dining room door thought she heard one groan. When she came into the dining room again, the murderer was

standing on the door step, and as the light of the candle brought by Doct. Scott, flashed on him, jumped down and disappeared. Col. Sharp was laying on the floor, wholly speechless and fast expiring. I had been called out a short time before the murder, and was now immediately sent for. When I entered, I found Mrs. Sharp sitting on the floor, with her husband's head upon a pillow in her lap. I examined the wound, which was a stab just below the pit of the stomach, and instantly saw that it was mortal. Indeed, he drew but one or two breaths after I approached him. The body had been removed to the bed-room. I scarcely know what followed. Several of the neighbors soon came in. Mrs. Sharp was lying on the floor beside her murdered husband, with her head on his bosom, in an agony of grief. Her little daughter, Jane, stood crying most piteously by her side, and her infant son, little Solomon, was crying in the bed. I was also lying by the other side of my brother, scarcely knowing what passed. Mr. Bibb solicited Mrs. Sharp to rise; but she refused. She did not shed a tear. He told her that her friends were coming in, and the body of her husband ought not to lay thus exposed. She then rose and gave a clear and distinct account of the scene she had witnessed. The body was removed into the drawing room, and Mrs. Sharp running around the back part of the house, exclaimed, that there was the murderer, that he had just passed her. She said, that she had come upon him looking in at the dining room window; that he had run by her and down the garden. Some search was immediately made; but nothing was found. In the morning a track was discovered across the garden, approaching and receding from the house, which was supposed to be the track of the murderer or an accomplice. An old handkerchief was also found on the steps of the door, which had two cuts through it and was a little bloody, as if a knife had been wiped on it.

After a few hours, Mrs. Sharp became delirious, and remained for several days, except at intervals, in a most afflicting situation. Her health was much impaired, and her friends had serious apprehensions that she might never entirely recover her reason or her health. However, both gradually returned; time and religion, the great comforters of the afflicted, reconciled her to think of the dreadful scene with a melancholy acquiescence in the dispensations of a wise Providence.

The sensation produced in Frankfort was deep beyond description. The Trustees of the town immediately assembled and voted a reward of \$1,000 for the apprehension of the murderer. A large subscription was made for the same object. The Legislature, which met on the same day, voted, without a dissenting voice, a reward of \$3,000 from the public Treasury. They also resolved to wear crape on the left arm, as a token of respect and mourning for the deceased, during the session.

On Tuesday Col. Sharp was buried. His funeral was attended by the members of the Legislature and a large concourse of citizens.

At first, not a suspicion crossed my mind, that Beauchamp or any other particular individual, was the murderer. From the facts I have detailed, I could not conceive that he entertained any hostile feeling towards my brother, and I could not fix on any other person whom I could think guilty. In her delirium, Mrs. Sharp, apparently remembering the singular visit of Mr. Darby on the preceding day, and the more singular question as to the room occupied by Mr. Bass, frequently mentioned him, as concerned in the horrid deed. But myself and her friends begged her not to mention his name, and as she became more composed she desisted. To many of those who first visited her, she did not hesitate to say, that her husband had fallen a victim to his political course, and such was the impression of all his friends and many of his political enemies.

It seems that Beauchamp, after committing the murder and concealing his weapon, had returned to his lodgings at the house of Mr. Scott. Mr. Scott got up early and was informed of the murder by a servant. He immediately repaired to Col. Sharp's house, and on hearing the time of the murder, corresponding so well with the time when he heard his lodger leave the house, he observed, that possibly he had entertained the murderer. He immediately went home with two other gentlemen, for the purpose of communicating the murder to the stranger and observing his manner. But reflecting, that he had no grounds of suspicion sufficient to authorize an open display of it, he requested the two gentlemen to wait at the door until he had visited and conversed with his guest alone. On entering his room, he found him up, with all his clothes on, except his coat. From his manner when intelligence of the murder was communicated to him, the suspicions of Mr. Scott were confirmed; but there was nothing which seemed to him sufficient to authorize his detention or justify the assertion that he was the guilty man. He therefore attempted to stop the rumor to which his first hasty remark had given circulation, but had careful search made in the room for further evidence on the subject. Before the stranger left his house, Mr. Scott enquired his name, and learned that it was Beauchamp; that he was a nephew of Col. J. Beauchamp, and that he lived in Simpson County. After going to the Register's office, under pretence of having business there, he left town a little after sunrise.

Mr. Scott went to the public offices and the taverns in town, and the result of his inquiries strengthened his suspicions. As soon as it was generally known that Beauchamp had been in town and had left it early in the morning, suspicions were excited in

the minds of many who had heard the old slander of Ann Cook and knew that this man was her husband. Information that he had met Mr. Miller, the representative of his county, near the turnpike gate, and had conversed with him without apprising him of the murder, the apparent correspondence of the handkerchief found at Col. Sharp's with that which he was observed to have round his head the preceding evening, with other slight circumstances, increased suspicion to such a degree, that it was determined to send for him. Indeed, I was afterwards informed, that a rumor was already circulating in town, affirming, in the most confident terms, that Beauchamp was the murderer. On Monday night four messengers were started after him, who found him at his own house, and without any resistance or effort to escape on his part, brought him back to Frankfort.

CHAPTER VII.

Singular conduct of Mr. Darby—story of the black child.

THE reader is already acquainted with Mr. Darby's character, with the active part he took against the election of Col. Sharp, with his writing to Beauchamp, with his visit to his house, with his knowledge that Beauchamp had said, that Col. Sharp, if elected, should never take his seat in the Legislature, with his strange visit to my brother the day preceding his murder, and with the information then obtained by him, relative to the room occupied by Mr. Bass, which, until within six or eight days, had been the family bed-room.

I have never learnt, that he said any thing about having seen Beauchamp and heard him make threats, until after it was determined to send for him. It was then rumored, that Mr. Darby had seen him at Brandenburg, a little town in Meade County, on the Ohio river, and had there heard him make threats in a conversation at the sale of lots in the preceding spring. He soon came out fully, and detailed a conversation with all the attendant circumstances. He said, that he was standing on a beech log with William Allen, a Lawyer from Hart County, when Beauchamp came riding by; that his curiosity was excited by Mr. Allen's account of him, whom he procured to give him an introduction. Then it was, he said, that Beauchamp told him he had some claims against Col. Sharp, for negroes and lands, on his wife's account, and on being informed that they could not be recovered by law, swore he would come and shoot down the Colonel in the

streets of Frankfort, if he did not settle them. This story was told to Beauchamp when he arrived in South Frankfort. Mr. Darby went to see him. Beauchamp waited to be told it was Mr. Darby, then rising from his chair and pulling off his hat, asked him if ever he had seen him before. Mr. Darby returned no answer. Beauchamp then took off his cloak and again asked, if he had ever seen him before. Mr. Darby still hesitated, but finally said, he thought he had seen him at Brandenburg. Beauchamp said he had never been at Brandenburg in his life. Nothing more was heard from Mr. Darby about having seen and conversed with Beauchamp at Brandenburg. Indeed, it turned out, that Mr. Allen had neither introduced him to this Beauchamp or any other Beauchamp at that place, and the whole story, so far as regarded time, place and circumstances, was entirely the work of imagination.

There was something in this interview which induced some of those who witnessed it to believe, that these two men had been well acquainted, although now they did not even seem to recognize each other. Indeed, it was not long before Mr. Darby himself avowed that he had been at Beauchamp's house. B. Hardin and J. J. Crittenden, Esqrs. had been engaged by me to aid in the prosecution. They were both political friends of Mr. Darby, and to them, or one of them, in confidence, he said that he had been at Beauchamp's house and there heard the threats which he had at first located at Brandenburg. Mr. Hardin communicated this fact to me and my brother, F. C. Sharp, and confirmed us in the belief that he had been there, by repeating a description he had given of Beauchamp's wife. On my application to Mr. Darby, he at first declined making any communication to me, alleging that what he had said to Mr. Hardin was confidential, and that he did not wish to be called on as a witness. However, he finally promised me, if I would call at his room the next day, to tell me all he knew. I called accordingly, and he told me the same story he had related to Mr. Hardin, except that he said he had forgot where the conversation took place, but was endeavoring to recollect.

I see no motive for his first locating the conversation at Brandenburg, and detailing all the minute circumstances attending it, forgetting that he had been at Beauchamp's house; and when Beauchamp told him he had never been at Brandenburg, remembering all at once that it was at Beauchamp's house, attended with circumstances altogether different! But I do see a motive why he did not wish me to know that he had been at Beauchamp's house, and, therefore, after having told it to Mr. Hardin *confidentially*, all at once, forgot where the conversation took place. He had some reason to think, that if I knew this fact, I should suspect him of having had some hand in the murder. In one of his sub-

sequent publications, he admits, that he "had to apprehend precisely what has taken place"; and that it was also the opinion of Crittenden and Hardin, that he would "be assailed in some form." If this be true, those gentlemen, as well as himself, saw something in the facts he had detailed to them, calculated to awaken suspicion. Hence, he had a motive to forget that he had been at Beauchamp's house, and by the time I talked with him, he did forget it!

After thus forgetting time, place and circumstances, first at Brandenburg and then at Beauchamp's house, he recollected that this conversation took place near Duncan's Well, in Simpson County. At first, Beauchamp had ridden by him at Brandenburg, as he was standing on a beech log, and he had got Mr. Allen to introduce him; in the second instance, Beauchamp was not at home when he called at his house, but soon came in, and they walked out together; but now, while he is riding by Duncan's house, some 200 yards from his well, some person calls to him from the house; Beauchamp comes out; he gets down from his horse, and they walk together to the well; and here the conversation takes place, which was first at Brandenburg and then at Beauchamp's house! But when the trial comes on, he forgets that Beauchamp called to him or come to him from Duncan's house, and remembers, that while he was down from his horse, for the purpose of drinking at the well, Beauchamp came riding up on a small horse, with homespun clothes on, got down from his horse, and there, at the well, they had the conversation, which had been first located at Brandenburg, next at Beauchamp's house, then in Duncan's lane, and lastly at Duncan's well.

Thus, four times, twice upon oath, did this man vary the circumstances attending the same conversation. Yet, it is not a little remarkable, that he did not recollect the countenance of the individual who had so excited his curiosity at Brandenburg as to make him seek an introduction; who had found him at his own house, walked out with him, and had a most impressive conversation; who had called to him from Duncan's house, came out to him as he sat on his horse in the lane, and walked down to the well with him; who had rode upon a small horse, got down and threatened the life of a distinguished individual. Is it not wonderful, that Mr. Darby could not remember the countenance of this man, especially when he remembered his homespun clothes and gave an accurate description of his wife!! It is absolutely incredible. Yet Mr. Darby, during the whole of his talking and swearing, pretended not to recognize Beauchamp as the man whom he had heard make threats, and only inferred that he was the man, because he said he had married Ann Cook!

But in remembering and forgetting, placing Beauchamp on horseback at Brandenburg and on foot at his own house, walking

out from Duncan's house and getting down from his small horse at Duncan's well, Mr. Darby at last remembered more circumstances than agreed with him in their testimony. He said, that during his conversation with Beauchamp at Duncan's well, he had taken out his knife and cut a notch in a rail by which he was standing, and that in the winter or spring of 1826, he had been there and found the *very rail* and the *very notch*! But Mr. Duncan testified, that the rail was not put there until six months after Darby said the conversation took place; and other witnesses said the notch was notoriously not so old as the date of that conversation!

The time at which Mr. Darby was at Beauchamp's house, as he told Mr. Hardin, was in the fall of 1824, or the spring of 1825; but he finally fixed on the former date. When a report got out, that he had said he had been at Beauchamp's house, he admitted that he had told Mr. Hardin so; but said he was mistaken, and the house he had taken for Beauchamp's belonged to Mr. John Jackman. Jackman's house is on the main road; Beauchamp's several miles from it. He told Mr. Hardin he was in Beauchamp's house and waited for his coming in; he swore he only rode up to Jackman's. He told Mr. Hardin, Beauchamp had left word at a tavern on the road for him to come to his house; but he never told his business at Jackman's, or what induced him to call. He described Mrs. Beauchamp to Mr. Hardin, informing him that her fore teeth were bad, or gone; he swore he saw Mrs. Jackman standing in the door with a little child by her side, but he neither described her, nor has she lost her teeth. The two were not at all alike, in appearance, language or manners. But there is one conclusive fact which stamps Mr. Darby's explanation with glaring falsehood. Jackman's house was not built at the time he said he was at Beauchamp's. The spot was a perfect wilderness. Jackman bought the place in January 1825, cut down the timber and built his cabins in that and the succeeding months, and moved his family into them for the first time, in March 1825. Mr. Darby did not, therefore, call there in the fall of 1824, or mistake Jackman's house for Beauchamp's house, and Jackman and wife for Beauchamp and wife. To show that he never called there at the time stated by him, or any other, I here insert the statements of Mr. and Mrs. Jackman:

"At the request of Mr. A. M. Sharp, I make the following statement of facts in relation to my settlement at the place where I now reside, and also of my acquaintance with P. H. Darby, Esq. since my residence here.

"I settled on the Nashville road, between five and six miles below Franklin, in March 1825, making the first improvements that had been made on the place. My family lived in the neighborhood, at the Cross Roads, from some time in January 1825,

until I moved into the houses where I now live, and whilst I was preparing my houses for the reception of my family. Some time in the month of February 1825, whilst I was engaged in cutting and hauling logs to build my house at this place, I saw, one evening, Col. John Moore, my neighbor, and another gentleman, passing down the road towards Nashville; I observed that the gentleman who was with Col. Moore, wore, as well as I recollect, a blue cloth cloak; shortly after they passed by, I returned to the Cross Roads where my family lived, and went into Mr. John Hennen's smith-shop; saw Col. Moore and the gentleman who had passed the road with him, who was Mr. Darby. Col. Moore made me acquainted with Mr. Darby, and observed to him that I was a Lawyer; I told Mr. Darby that I had practised law in Kentucky, but that I had bought a little tract of barren land on the road, and intended to try the business of farming. I told Mr. Darby that I had seen and read a pamphlet of his, at Gallatin, Tennessee, in which he had investigated the decisions of Judges Haywood and Peck. He said it was an inflated pamphlet; that he had written it under some excitement, and that the style and manner of it were severe; but that the truth was told in it. The evening was then far spent, and Mr. Darby then asked Col. Moore what house he should get to, to stay all night. The Colonel told him, he had as well call at M'Crary's; when Mr. Darby left Hennen's shop and went on towards M'Crary's, in the direction of Nashville. This was the first time I ever saw Mr. Darby, to know him, and the only conversation I ever had with him. I think I saw him pass the road since, once or twice, but had no conversation with him. I met him in the road, last spring, near Mr. Colley's, in company with Mr. Mills of Franklin. Mr. Darby never was in my house, so far as I know or believe.

JOHN JACKMAN."

"Being requested by Mr. A. M. Sharp, to say whether I know Mr. Darby, and whether he had ever been in our house, I can say, that I never had any acquaintance with Mr. Darby; I do not know that I ever saw him, nor was he ever in our house, so far as I know or believe. Given under my hand, this 31st July 1825.

MARY JACKMAN."

Teste—JOHN JACKMAN.

Mr. Jackman is now dead; but Mrs. Jackman, I learn, was lately before the Grand Jury of Franklin County, and confirmed these statements in all their essential parts, upon her oath.

The following is a correct description of Mrs. Jackman, by which the reader may understand how likely it is that she was the woman described by Mr. Darby to Mr. Hardin, under the impression that it was Mrs. Beauchamp:

"I am now at the house of Mr. John Jackman, and being requested by Mr. A. M. Sharp, to describe Mrs. Jackman as well as I can, state as follows: Mrs. Jackman is rather taller in person than ladies usually are, and rather more delicately framed; fair skin, light blue eyes, dark hair, but several shades lighter than what would be called black; she has lost none of her teeth, and she informs me she is about the age of 28 years.

THOMAS M. SMITH."

July 31st, 1826.

Now, let the reader turn back and compare Mrs. Jackman with Mrs. Beauchamp, as herein described, and as described to Mr. Hardin by Mr. Darby.

I think I understand Mr. Darby's motive in all these false statements, pretended mistakes and gross equivocations. At first, he did not seem to be certain whether the time he had called at Beauchamp's house, was in the Fall 1824 or Spring 1825. That his visit was in the Spring of 1825, after Jackman's house was built, I have no doubt. But being impressed with the conviction, that an acknowledgment of the truth, would, by bringing it within that memorable year, satisfy those who heard him, that his object was, by Beauchamp's aid, to produce the ruin of Col. Sharp, and that he had thus been instrumental in producing his death, he thrust his visit back to the year 1824. But in so doing, he thrust it back beyond the time at which Jackman's house was built, and has thus enabled me to detect the falsehood of his explanation. But I take that explanation to be evidence, not that he never visited Beauchamp's house, but that his visit was after Jackman's house was built, or in the year 1825. It was contemporaneous with the collection of the weapons with which Col. Sharp was to be assailed, if he became a candidate, and before the 27th of June, when Beauchamp had already resolved he should never take a seat in the Legislature.

I wish to present this man's conduct just as it was, without any improbable inferences or high colouring. God knows, I do not wish to do him the least injustice; but I wish the world to know him as he is. He has been the chief agent in slandering the memory of my brother, and charging his widow with falsehood and want of principle, and I shall try to show the true motive by which he was actuated.

The part Col. Sharp had taken in the political contest of that year, his talents, the station he held, the hatred of many of the old Court party towards him, the fury with which he had been denounced and threatened, and his importance to his party at that time, excited a general suspicion that his murder had been the offspring of political rancor. Multitudes in Frankfort openly expressed such a belief, and the impression spread through the

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State with the tidings of the dreadful event. The Argus, printed at Frankfort on the Wednesday succeeding the murder, alluded in mild terms to the impression which was abroad, that the murderer had been influenced by other than personal considerations. There were two sets of men whose interest it was, by every means within their art and power, to counteract the effect of this impression. One was the leaders of the old Court party in general, who were ignorant of the means by which the murder had been produced; and the other was, those few individuals who had corresponded with Beauchamp, or been at his house, and knew, before the election, that Col. Sharp was destined never to take his seat in the Legislature. The former saw a prospect of the entire prostration of their party, if this murder should prove to be political, and the latter shuddered also for their personal safety. Accordingly, no sooner was the intimation given in the Argus, that probably other than private griefs had produced the murder, than all those men affected to be excited to the highest pitch of indignation. Some discontinued their papers, and others abused the Editors as having given publicity to an insinuation which they knew to be false. The following extract from Mr. Darby's paper, the Constitutional Advocate, of November 16th, 1825, shows the manner in which that man spoke of this subject: "The following insinuation, contained in the last Argus, is marked with a degree of depravity, which language furnishes no terms to express." The following is the language of the Argus: "The public feeling is also much heightened by the mystery which shrouds the motive of the murderer. Col. Sharp's talents, the station he held, the time selected for the horrid deed, and the fact that he was not known to have a personal enemy, cause suspicions to flash across the mind, that the assassin was not actuated wholly by personal considerations. May Heaven grant, that in the speedy apprehension of the murderer, all such painful thoughts may be dispelled." In his comments, Mr. Darby proceeds: "But there is something so dark and base in the idea, something so repulsive to human nature in the bare thought of murdering a man in cold blood! from such a cause, that it appears to us to require the mind of an assassin to conceive, and the hand of a murderer to pen, the very conception of such a charge."

The reader will perceive nothing in the remarks of the Argus which called for such deep denunciation, and the ferocity of its language then excited some surprize. But if the public could have known that its author had corresponded with Beauchamp and been at his house; that he knew, before the election, that Col. Sharp was never to be suffered to sit in the Legislature; and that he had visited Col. Sharp the day before the murder, and ascertained where a part of the family slept, they might have

imagined that these lines were written with a hand trembling with apprehension lest the insinuation of the Argus should soon be changed into a notorious fact, stamping him with the infamy of an instigator, if not an accomplice of the horrid crime. But these things were then unknown. It was the interest of Mr. Darby's party to put down every idea that politics were concerned in the murder, and multitudes of innocent men adopted his language. A general shout was raised by them throughout the land, that politics had nothing to do with it, and that every insinuation that they had, was base and unfounded.

To obviate the impression which was first made on the country, it became necessary that the murder should be traced to private wrongs. The old tale of the seduction of Ann Cook was revived; and as an aggravating circumstance, it was reported that Col. Sharp had, to satisfy his family or secure his election, procured a certificate from the midwife, that the child which Ann Cook had charged to him, was a mulatto. It was said, that Col. Sharp or his family had circulated this tale before the election; that it had reached the ears of Beauchamp, and had exasperated him to commit the murder. These tales were traced to Mr. Darby, who boldly declared that Mrs. Sharp, myself and others connected with Col. Sharp's family, had stated that the Colonel actually had a certificate or certificates to prove the child a mulatto! Knowing the story to be utterly false, we denied it, and Mr. Darby attempted to establish it by proof. All he succeeded in proving was, that Col. Sharp had spoken of a letter in his possession, and of other means in general, by which he could establish his innocence; but there was not then a particle of evidence, that he had ever said the child was black, or that he had any paper to prove it so.

To go into a minute review of Mr. Darby's labored publications, to prove that Beauchamp had good reason to take the life of Col. Sharp, would be as tedious as it is unnecessary. In what I have to say, I shall therefore confine myself to those points on which explanation is due to the character of my murdered brother, and to the motives of his assassin.

In the month of January 1826, Mr. Darby was first informed that he was suspected of having been an accomplice in the murder of Col. Sharp. He had already circulated the story of the black child, and charged my brother with circulating such a report during the preceding electioneering contest. Col. Sharp's friends denied it, and asserted that if such a rumor was in circulation at all, it must have been among his political enemies, and by them communicated to Beauchamp. On the 17th of February, Mr. Darby came out in a long publication, in which he asserted, that Col. Sharp's family and friends had circulated this rumor, and declared my brother had a certificate or certificates to establish it. In this publication, which was more than three months after the

murder, and long after these rumors had been put in circulation, he declared that the members of the old Court party in Franklin, knew nothing of the story of the black child, until after Col. Sharp's death. This is his language: "But after all our enquiries, we have not found one man or woman who is favorable to the old Court, that knew any thing on the subject until since his death. Their conversations relative to the child being a mulatto, and Mrs. Beauchamp being a woman of bad and notoriously infamous character, and the letters and certificates, and conversations of Col. Payne, and the letters of this dead man, were confined to the circle of their own party. And whether Beauchamp heard them at all, or if he did hear them, how he got the information, must be confined to themselves."

Here Mr. Darby admitted, that no such tale was known to any of the old Court party before the election, or indeed until after Col. Sharp's death. It soon appeared, that there was also neither man nor woman friendly to the new Court, who had ever heard this tale of certificates and report about the black child, during the electioneering contest; and the motive which had been got up to account for the murder, if not even justify it, was likely to fail entirely. Perceiving the difficulty into which he was getting, and fearing that Beauchamp would be left without a private motive for the murder, he now takes a new tack. He endeavors to prove, that such a story was in circulation among Col. Sharp's friends! And to whom does he go to prove it? Why, to his political enemies; to that very party among whom he had not, on the 17th of February, "found one man or woman who knew any thing on the subject until since his death." He was now able to procure the statements of four persons friendly to the old Court, with whom he was, previous to his publication of the 17th of February, in the habits of daily conversation, who stated that they had heard the political friends of Col. Sharp, previous to the election, say, that "if any publication were made against him in relation to his reputed connection with Mrs. Beauchamp, formerly Miss Cook, he was prepared to refute the charge, by a certificate from the midwife, that the child was a mulatto." Knowing that these men were mistaken, and that they had never heard, from my brother's friends, any such conversation at the time stated, I took a friend with me, and calling on them severally, demanded what friends of Col. Sharp they had ever heard make such an assertion? Not one of them could name a single individual!! All was vague and indefinite.

Mr. Darby himself generally heard all that political men had to say. On the 17th February, he had not found one man or woman, friendly to the old Court, who had heard any thing on this subject previous to the death of Col. Sharp; now, on the 10th of April, he finds four of that party who say they had heard these

rumors before the election! I do not charge them with wilful falsehood; but I do say, that they cannot point out one man or woman, friendly to the new Court, who ever told them any such thing before the election, and I can only account for their statements by supposing that they have unconsciously thrust back conversations heard after my brother's death, to a period preceding the election; or, what is quite as probable, have fixed upon Col. Sharp's friends, conversations which they really heard among his enemies.

Even from these witnesses there was not an intimation, that Col. Sharp had ever made use of such an observation. The whole charge in relation to him, rested upon vague rumor, not even *one* circulator of which, was to be found. At length, however, Mr. Darby found one man of the old Court party, no friend of Col. Sharp's, in all the 1,600 voters of Franklin County, residing nine or ten miles from town, in the hills of Flat creek, who said my brother had told him of the black child in person. His statement, published by Mr. Darby on the 15th July 1826, is as follows:

"JUNE 27th, 1826.

"I was at Frankfort on the first Monday of the last July Circuit Court. I lodged that night with Achilles Sneed. While there, he received by mail, a packet, or large letter, from Bowlinggreen. It contained a handbill which had been published at Bowlinggreen, and the handbill contained a statement, with some certificates, against Col. Sharp, of improperly obtaining some lands, and attempting so to obtain others. It also contained a statement of Sharp having debauched a young woman, and leaving her and her widowed mother to lament her ruin. The woman is now said to be the wife of Jeroboam O. Beauchamp, convicted of the murder of Col. Sharp. This handbill was shown to me by Mr. Sneed, and I had spoken of its contents to several persons. A few days afterwards, Col. Sharp came to my house, in Franklin County, in company with Stafford Pemberton. Sharp asked me if Sneed had not told me something unfavorable to his election. I told him he had not; neither had he. I then stated to Sharp, that Sneed had shown me the handbill; and as near as I could recollect, I told him its contents. When I mentioned the charge of debauching the young woman, Sharp rose and said it was false, and could be proved the child was black, or that it was a black child. I then understood him to mean a child of coloured or mixed blood. He said it was not new to him; he had heard of it before. And his wife was at Frankfort when the story was raised against him.

In April last, Jephthah Dudley called me into his store in Frankfort, and asked me what had taken place between myself and Col.

Sharp upon this subject. I then stated to him the conversation between Col. Sharp and me, and what Sharp said about the child. Mr. Dudley observed, that certificates either had been, or could be obtained, to prove the child was black, or a black child, meaning, as I understood him, a child of mixed blood.

SOLOMON SNOW."

Thus, after a six months' search, *one man*, friendly to the old Court, was found, who stated that Col. Sharp told him, in July 1825, that the child was black. Even *he* does not say or insinuate, that he said he had or could get a certificate to prove it so. He does indeed say, that Jephthah Dudley told him, in April 1826, that certificates to that effect *had been or could be* procured. But this was far from proving that such certificates *had been* procured or spoken of by Col. Sharp in the summer of 1825.

Fortunately for the cause of truth, Mr. Snow mentions a third person as present when he held this conversation with Col. Sharp. The following is the statement of that gentleman of the case:

"August 10th, 1826.

"I have read the affidavit of Solomon Snow, published by Darby in the Commentator of July 15th, with great surprise and regret. I suppose I am the person who he states was at his house in July, in company with the late Col. Solomon P. Sharp. I was at the house of Snow, in company with Col. Sharp, about the time he mentions. I had met with him at Mr. Crutchfield's, on the day before, and I had rode with him through the country that and the following day, occasionally calling at the houses of such persons as either of us knew. As we approached the house of Snow, I told him an acquaintance of mine lived there, and I would introduce him. We rode up to the house, and I did introduce Col. Sharp to Snow. They spoke and shook hands, as is usual on such occasions. I am satisfied, from the Colonel's manner, he had no previous acquaintance with him. At the exchange of the usual salutations, in consequence of a shower of rain, I proposed going into the house. Snow invited us to do so, and I got down, took off my saddle and went in. The Colonel and Snow followed in two or three minutes, in conversation, the greater part of which I heard, before they entered. I was not afterwards separated from Col. Sharp during our whole stay at Snow's. The conversation with which they entered the house, continued about fifteen minutes, and we came away together. I heard nothing of any such conversation as Snow has attempted to detail in his affidavit; and I am satisfied, from all the circumstances, that none such could have taken place at that time. No such subject as Snow speaks of was mentioned to me by the Colonel, in my hearing, during our ride, either before or after we were at Snow's; nor did I ever

hear a word of the bastard child alluded to, having been coloured, during the whole canvassing, nor until after Col. Sharp was murdered. I was his friend, and actively engaged in his support, and mixed much with the people on the south side of the river.

STAFFORD PEMBERTON."

The foregoing statement of Stafford Pemberton was this day sworn to by him, before me, a Justice of the Peace of said County.

EDWARD S. COLEMAN, J. P.

Frankfort, August 11th, 1826.

I know nothing of Mr. Snow. But in this case, I am satisfied that he has connected in his own mind, things which he heard after Col. Sharp's murder, with the conversation which took place before the election. If my brother said any thing on the subject, he doubtless asserted his innocence; but as he never said to any other human being, as a ground of defence, that the child was black, so neither do I believe he said it to Snow.

Snow's statement proves a correspondence carried on with some person at Bowlinggreen or its vicinity, relative to Col. Sharp. The handbill alluded to by Snow, is doubtless that published in 1821 by John U. Waring. How came it to be forwarded to Mr. Sneed, the old Court Clerk, who had denounced Col. Sharp in terms so strong? Did he write for it? Or was it sent to him voluntarily? For what purpose did he write for it, or why was it sent? Was not the object to use it against Col. Sharp? Why then was it not published or even *openly* used? It was received about the 11th or 12th of July. Beauchamp had resolved on the murder as early as the 27th of June. Had Beauchamp's declarations, that his wife's name should not be used on pain of death; that he would make Col. Sharp account for his conduct; and that he should never take his seat in the Legislature, if elected, been communicated to Mr. Sneed? Was this the reason why the handbill was neither republished nor used? I call on Mr. Sneed's son-in-law, who lived with him, administered on his estate, and has possession of his papers, to produce this letter from Bowlinggreen, and any other letter or paper which may serve to explain the object of this correspondence, and protect the memory of Mr. Sneed from those suspicions which the publication of Snow's certificate by Darby, to shield himself, in conjunction with other circumstances, are calculated to excite. I shudder at disturbing the ashes of the dead; but it is from a sacred duty to the dead, that I make this demand on the representative of Mr. Sneed. Who sent this handbill? Why was it sent? Why was it not used, and what became of it?

Having disproved and explained the statement of Mr. Snow, relative to my brother's conversation about the black child, which

is the only evidence that he ever lisped such an idea, and shown, by Mr. Darby's own declaration, that not a man or woman of the old Court party could be found, who had heard even such a rumor from any person before the election, notwithstanding the errors committed by a few of that party when the explanation of the causes of Col. Sharp's murder was likely to fail, I here add the explicit declaration of a number of his friends to the same effect:

"The undersigned, friends of Col. Solomon P. Sharp in the election of 1825, do certify and say, that neither during the electioneering contest of that year nor at any other time, previous to his assassination, did we ever hear Col. Sharp, or any of his family or relations, or any other person, say or insinuate, that the child charged to him by Ann Cook, since wife of J. O. Beauchamp, was a mulatto or coloured child. We further state, that some of us were his confidential friends, with whom he often advised, and also mixed much with the people; and in our opinion, it is very improbable that Col. Sharp could have circulated such a statement, or given such a statement for circulation among his friends in Franklin County, without our knowing it.

In Town.

F. P. Blair,	J. Dudley,
Amos Kendall,	A. G. Meriwether,
Samuel South,	Robert Johnston,
D. C. Freeman,	James Shannon,
A. C. Keenon,	William Hunter,
James Downing,	B. Edrington,
Benj. B. Johnson,	Lewis Sanders, Jr.
G. E. Russell,	

In the country.

Christopher Lillard,	James M'Brayer,
N. Richardson,	J. S. Hackley,
Th. F. Crutchfield,	John C. Richardson,
A. M'Brayer,	John Wash,
Samuel Payne,	William M'Brayer,
Edward Carr,	James Middleton,
Elisha Herndon,	Daniel Blackwell,
William Payne,	Sanford M'Brayer,
Richard Collins,	Daniel Middleton,
Robt. C. M'Brayer,	John Hunton,
John M'Kee,	Everard White."
A. Wilson,	

I have no doubt, were the pains taken, 900 signatures might be obtained to a statement of this kind, being the whole number that voted for Col. Sharp at that election. A considerable number of those whose names appear to this statement, were the intimate

and confidential friends of Col. Sharp, from whom he would conceal nothing which related to the election or his means of defence. Many of them conversed with him on this very subject; but not to one mortal ear did he ever whisper, that among the means of his defence was a certificate that the child was black, or that such was the fact. If Col. Sharp circulated such a report to secure his election in 1825, how happened it that his friends never heard of it? How happened it, that so late as February the 17th, 1826, Mr. Darby, the most active, talking, speaking, writing and enquiring of his political enemies, had not found one man or woman favorable to the old Court, who had heard of it before the murder?

From all these facts, I am justified in the conclusion, that neither my brother nor any friend of his, circulated a report that the child of Ann Cook was a mulatto, or that he had any paper or certificate to prove it so, or said he had, as a means of securing his election, or for any other purpose. The whole story was a fabrication by Mr. Darby, to furnish Beauchamp with a private motive for the murder, and relieve himself and others of the old Court party from suspicion. But admitting that Snow's statement is true, and that such a rumor was circulated by Col. Sharp and his friends, to secure his election, yet that could not have constituted the motive for the murder. It will be recollected, that Beauchamp had already doomed Col. Sharp to death, as early as the 27th of June, and that he came out as a candidate on the 29th of the same month. Whatever was said or done by him or his friends after he became a candidate, could not, therefore, have had the least effect on Beauchamp's determination, which was previously made. If, therefore, Col. Sharp did tell Snow, after the middle of July, that the child was a mulatto, or if his friends circulated a report that he had a certificate to prove it so, those acts did not constitute Beauchamp's motive. That motive had already operated and produced its fatal effect before these acts were done.

I assert and have proved, that no such report was in circulation, and it now appears that if it had been, it could not have constituted the motive of the murder.

Col. Beauchamp, the uncle of the murderer, called on the midwife, and she readily gave him an affidavit that no such certificate had ever been obtained or applied for. This was conclusive as to the *fact*; but to keep up the show of a private motive for the assassin, Mr. Darby still continued to insist that we had *said* Col. Sharp had such a certificate, and that the rumor of this *assertion* had reached Beauchamp and was the motive of his conduct. In this form, the charge was as false as in the other; but it was made to weigh much in the public mind.

L.

I was informed, that when called on by Col. Beauchamp, the midwife supposed that he came to get a certificate from her that the child was not a mulatto, and taking a friend aside, she told him she could not give such a statement. That not being his object, she readily stated to him that no certificate of that fact had ever been applied for or given. Shortly afterwards, while in that country, I caused to be procured from her, the following statement:

"State of Kentucky, Warren County, Sct.

"This day personally came Mrs. Rebecca Dunn, before me, one of the acting Justices of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid, and made oath, that she acted and waited on Ann Cook as midwife, some years since, and at a time when she was delivered of a still-born illegitimate child. This affiant says she has acted in the capacity of *midwife* for many years, and that she never saw a white child of such uncommon dark complexion. This affiant will not undertake to say that the death of the child did not produce the dark appearance of said child. This affiant says, she waited on a Miss Haynes, of this County, some years since, at a time when she was delivered of a known mulatto child, and that the child of Miss Cook was as dark, if not darker in appearance, than the child of Miss Haynes. This affiant says she never knew Miss Cook to have any other child, except the one above spoken of, and that she is advised and believes, that Ann Cook is now the wife of Jeroboam O. Beauchamp, of Simpson County, Kentucky. Given under my hand, this 18th day of February 1826.

R. W. LUCAS, J. P. W. C."

I give also the more positive statement of the man who buried Ann Cook's child:

"State of Kentucky, Warren County, Sct.

"This day personally came French Fort before me, one of the acting Justices of the Peace for said County, and made oath, that by the request of Peyton Cook, this affiant made and carried a small coffin to the house of the said Cook. This affiant further states, that the coffin was then taken, and as the said Cook informed this affiant, an illegitimate child was put in it, which child had recently been delivered of Ann Cook, sister to the said Cook, and now the wife of J. O. Beauchamp, of Simpson County, as he is informed and believes. After said child was placed in the coffin as aforesaid, the said Cook requested this affiant to take said corpse and go with a servant and bury it; and when about to bury said child, from motives of curiosity, this affiant opened said coffin, to see said child, and no person being present, except the aforesaid servant sent to aid in the burial; when, to the great sur-

prize of this affiant, the child was not white, but was evidently coloured. This affiant further states, that he never knew of the said Ann Cook having any other bastard child whatever. Given under my hand this 17th day of February 1826.

R. W. LUCAS, J. P. W. C."

This man also often mentioned the subject soon after the child was born. Col. Thomas, of Warren County, told me, that he had heard him state publicly, at a house-raising, in the presence of eighteen or twenty men, soon after the child was buried, that it was a mulatto; and he said that many of his neighbors would testify that they heard this rumor at that time. I give the following statement:

"At the request of Doct. L. J. Sharp, I state, that in the year 1822, to the best of my recollection, Mr. French Fort told me that he had buried the child of Ann Cook, charged by her to Col. Sharp, and that when carrying the coffin to the grave, he opened it, and found that it contained a coloured child. My wife has since told me that Mrs. Fort told her the same thing.

THOMAS MIDDLETON."

April 3d, 1827.

Thus is the evidence that the child was black, confirmed by the oaths of Mrs. Dunn and Mr. Fort. I leave the reader to draw his own conclusions. Certain it is, that even Mr. Darby at one time affected so far to assent to the weight of a *part* only of this evidence, that he acknowledged his conviction of my brother's innocence, and his belief that the whole story relative to his connection with Ann Cook, was a vile slander. He had scarcely published his attack on the character of the dead and the living, in his paper of the 17th of February 1826, when he started for the Green river country, to collect evidence for the support of his calumnies. In his progress he called on the midwife, and after a conversation with her, held the language alluded to in the following statement:

"We do hereby certify, that we this day saw and heard a man by the name of Patrick H. Darby, say he saw Mrs. Dunn on yesterday, and heard her story about Ann Beauchamp's child; and heard him say, that he had no doubt, from Mrs. Dunn's statement, that Col. Sharp has been basely slandered in the story of being the father of said child. Given under our hands, this first of March 1826.

R. W. LUCAS,
R. O. HENDRICKS,
ELZEY MITCHELL."

When I was in that country afterwards, several persons told me, that Mr. Darby had made statements of the same character in their presence. It seemed, that he was now sensible the ground he had taken relative to the seduction of Ann Cook and the pretended certificates, was untenable. Why did he not come out, when he got home, and acknowledge Col. Sharp's innocence, and endeavor to repair the wrong he had done? I can perceive but two motives. Had he admitted Col. Sharp's innocence of all these charges, Beauchamp would have been left without a private motive, and the conclusion would necessarily be drawn that he was a deluded or hired assassin. Besides, it was necessary that those who had communicated to Beauchamp the falsehood that Col. Sharp had circulated the story of the black child, should have a justification to Beauchamp himself, lest he should make a disclosure which would prove fatal to Mr. Darby and his associates. To prevent a result so disastrous, it was deemed best to push charges which he thus knew and had acknowledged to be false. With increased violence, he therefore repeated his charges; and receiving the general countenance of his party *here*, proceeded to justify the murder in all but the manner of committing it, when he knew, as he always had done, that the motives assigned by him to Beauchamp never had existence in fact.

"And if," says he, "Col. Sharp was the origin of these new invented and grossly aggravated calumnies on the conduct and character of Mrs. Beauchamp, (and from the evidence of Mr. Sanders and the statements of Mrs. Sharp and Doct. Sharp, contradicting what Col. Sharp then said, there is too much reason to believe he was,) and if to promote his views of aggrandizement and ambition, he used the situation and character of Mrs. Beauchamp as a means and an instrument to effect his ends, (and there is too much reason to believe he did,) and Jeroboam O. Beauchamp, on becoming acquainted with the fact, instead of prowling after him in the dark, and insidiously reaching him by a claim to his friendship and an appeal to his hospitality, had, in the character of a proud, bold and magnanimous man, put him to death in the street, in open day, and rested for his justification upon the justice and feelings of mankind, the world would never have convicted him with murder."

"If he dies for the deed, under all the circumstances of his case, he will die, not so much for the *death* of Col. Sharp as for the manner of doing it. He will die, because, instead of being a proud, bold and magnanimous man, he is a mean, cowardly wretch, whose example of avenging such wrongs renders society unsafe and insecure. The wrong to Beauchamp and his wife merited death to all who were engaged in it. But when men outrage the laws in the punishment of such acts, to be supported in it, they must at least keep the manly and chivalrous feelings of mankind on their side."

Gracious Heaven! what must be the state of society when a recreant to virtue, religion and his country, is permitted to use such language and yet receive the countenance and support of eminent men! He here declares, that the distracted widow, the mourning brothers, and the political friends of Col. Sharp, all of whom he had implicated, merited the dagger of Beauchamp! This was written and published by a man who knew and had acknowledged the whole of those charges to be false; who confessed he had been to Beauchamp's house, which he afterwards denied; who knew that Beauchamp did not intend to let Col. Sharp take his seat in the Legislature; whose strange conduct and unaccountable contradictions, had made him suspected as an accomplice in the murder! This language has always appeared to me like that of an assassin, a counsellor of Beauchamp. If he thought Col. Sharp deserved to die, would he not advise Beauchamp to kill him? Was this his business at Beauchamp's house?

I have now shown, that Col. Sharp never did circulate any story about a black child, or a certificate to prove it, before the election; that Mr. Darby himself professed to be satisfied by the most direct testimony, that he was innocent of the charges alleged against him; but that, notwithstanding, these charges were pushed forward and circulated by him and his party with a zeal the most cruel and ferocious. Why was this? It was to satisfy the people of Kentucky and the world in general, that Beauchamp was the sole murderer of Col. Sharp, and had done it from motives of private vengeance, and make the murderer himself believe that the information which induced him to commit the horrid crime, was true. It was to shield from suspicion, those who had instigated and aided him, and ward off the effects which a disclosure of the truth would have had on Mr. Darby and his associates, as well as on the political contest of the country.

Upon this detail of facts which I have here given to the reader, I will for a moment pause and invoke the most serious attention. From the time of my brother's death until this hour, his political enemies have ascribed his assassination to the circumstance of his having vindicated himself by circulating the report of Mrs. Beauchamp's child having been a *coloured one*. Nay, they have even *justified his foul murder* on that account. Beauchamp, in his confession, has assumed the same ground of justification; but without stopping to enquire how Darby and the rest were enabled, at the hour of the perpetration of the murder, to anticipate the ground of justification which the assassin afterwards avowed, I demand where is the proof that Col. Sharp ever spoke of the colour of the child or insisted on it as the means of acquitting himself of the imputation of being the father? It is not improbable that he heard of the neighborhood report on that subject; yet, if he did, it is clearly proved he never sought the man who buried it.

nor the midwife, to establish the fact, although I have since obtained their statements, for the double purpose of showing how easily he might have got such proof, if he had been willing to add to the distress of Ann Cook's family and her own disgrace, and also of pointing out the source from which the report sprung, which was afterwards current in the neighborhood. The enemies of my brother, who, it appears, were hunting up proof in that quarter to bring this stale scandal to life and introduce it into the canvass to injure his election, doubtless met with this report in the course of their inquiries, and supposing that Col. Sharp would make use of it to refute the charges which they designed to make against him, it cost but little invention in those employed in this service, and who were desirous to excite Beauchamp to action, to tell him that Col. Sharp had already used the story of the black child to defend his character. It required but a little anticipation to do this, and if the anonymous letter written by Beauchamp to Col. Sharp, to bring him to the Green river country with a view to kill him there, had been known to Mr. Snow, as dated in June instead of July, it is not improbable that he might have antedated his conversation with Col. Sharp, so that the provocation to commit the murder might have preceded the determination to execute it. But although Mr. Snow was the confidant of Mr. Sneed, to whom the latter thought proper to communicate a part of the contents he received from Beauchamp's vicinity, containing the charges against Col. Sharp, yet he seems not to have been in Beauchamp's secrets; and thus unhappily makes the expressions of my brother relative to Beauchamp's wife, to which his political foes attribute his fate, succeed the time when it now appears the resolution was taken to destroy him. Thus is Snow's statement defeated, not only by the direct evidence of the person called on by him to corroborate it, but by the fact that the pretended conversation was subsequent to the decision which it was designed to show might have been influenced by it. This man, Snow, was enough in the confidence of certain individuals, to know something upon this subject; but it is evident he did not know all about it. He may possibly mean well in the statement which he has given to the public; and if so, I am convinced he has confounded, in his memory, facts obtained in conversations he has had with others, for facts obtained from my brother. It is not improbable, that the same person who furnished him with an account of the charges which were to be brought forward and proved against Col. Sharp in relation to the child of Beauchamp's wife, also aggravated my brother's offence, by stating that he acquitted himself by *blackening* the infamy of the woman whom it was pretended he had betrayed. The same voice which whispered this in Beauchamp's ear, as an aggravation, may have told it to Snow as Col. Sharp's story, and as such Snow has given it to the public.

I have proved conclusively, by a witness who was present, no such circumstance was spoken of in the only conversation that Col. Sharp had with Snow. If, then, he ever heard it, he must have heard it from some other person with whom he conversed on this subject. Col. Sharp, I feel satisfied from the anxious inquiries I have made, never mentioned it. I have given the declaration of his most intimate friends and associates, proving that they never heard of it from him or from any person connected with him. I have enquired of hundreds of those who supported his election, and all declare they never heard of it. I invite every individual among the 900 who gave him their votes, to task their memories, and if ever he gave one them the slightest intimation of defending himself against the charges of his enemies by imputing a black child to Beauchamp's wife, I invite them to declare it freely, and I challenge his opponents to produce one respectable individual who will swear that he ever heard such a suggestion from Col. Sharp. From the exertions which Darby has already made for this purpose, I am convinced that no such man can ever be produced. However essential, then, it may be for those who have taken part in defaming my brother, to find some foundation for this last fabrication, to countenance the murder, I defy them to the proof. I know that it was necessary, after Beauchamp's condemnation and while he lived, to pretend to believe in the truth of this tale, to seal his lips as it regarded his informants and accomplices, who had probably thrown this in as a make-weight to reconcile him to the deed to which he had been stimulated. It is not only necessary now that they should seem to believe it, to justify Beauchamp's act and to degrade Col. Sharp's character, but it is necessary that they should produce some proof of the fact on which they justify so horrid a deed before the public, to save their own standing with the community, and also to give some unction to their own consciences for the private part they may have taken.

I now submit it to my country, whether I am not authorized to draw the following conclusions in relation to the motives by which Beauchamp was stimulated to murder my brother:

As soon as the books and records of the Court of Appeals had been wrested from Mr. Sneed; and Col. Sharp began to be talked of as a candidate, it was determined to destroy him by the use of the refuted slanders which had been circulated by Waring. A correspondence was opened with Beauchamp, in which, to exasperate him to some attack on my brother, for the purpose of destroying his popularity and influence, the false information was given him, that Col. Sharp was charging his wife with having borne a negro child. Desperate at finding himself connected with an infamous woman, without the expected amount of property, who had led him into marriage under the false plea that she was pregnant by him, and entertaining a hatred of Col. Sharp,

common to many of his party; on account of the part he had acted in organizing the new Court, he informed his correspondents that they should not use his wife's name in the contest, on pain of death; but that, as for Col. Sharp, he would hold him accountable for what he had said, and that he should never take his seat in the Legislature, if he should be elected. To ascertain the most safe and convenient opportunity for accomplishing his diabolical purpose, he wrote the forged letter of June the 27th; but, discovering that in no other way could he prevent Col. Sharp from taking his seat in the Legislature, he came to Frankfort on purpose to kill him, the night preceding the commencement of the session. The threat of Beauchamp was known to certain individuals in Frankfort before the election, and prevented the open use of the old calumny. After the election, the conviction among them still was, that Col. Sharp would never take his seat in the Legislature. Beauchamp came into town after night, as if every thing was ready to his hand, and it is notorious from the facts and circumstances I have disclosed, that some person well acquainted both with the exterior and interior of Col. Sharp's house, showed him the house, the room where his victim was sleeping, and the door by which he could most securely approach it. When it is considered, that so far from harboring any hostility, from 1820 down to 1825, as I have before shown, he entertained towards Col. Sharp the most respectful and friendly feelings, I have a right, from the facts disclosed, to conclude that he owed his death to the part he took in politics in 1825, although, by the falsehood of men in Frankfort, the assassin was led to believe that he was avenging private injuries as well as public wrongs.

That Darby and his associates in Frankfort knew previously the means by which Beauchamp was stimulated; that they had heard the rumor of the black child from other quarters, and informed Beauchamp that Col. Sharp was circulating it; that Mr. Darby, in saying, after conversing with the midwife, that he was satisfied with Col. Sharp's innocence, was assuming a shroud under which he might cover his entire knowledge of the whole transaction; that he and all those who had investigated this matter, well knew Col. Sharp's innocence, as well then as when they gave the false information to Beauchamp, but persisted in re-asserting these falsehoods, as well to make the public believe that the murder had proceeded from private motives only, as to continue the delusion of the murderer until his lips should be sealed in death, there is little room to doubt.

I confess, however, that I sometimes think the motive of the murder was of a still more base and wicked description. When I reflect, that the character of his wife was well known to him; that she had imposed upon him in the most tender point, by a most profligate falsehood; that the story of the black child was current

in Warren County long before his marriage, and was probably known to him; that he had so little honor, taste or feeling, so little respect for himself or the opinions of the world, as to marry his own prostitute, who was reputed to have been delivered of a mulatto child, I can hardly conceive that he had a feeling of honor or a sense of injury left, sufficient to induce him to resent, much less punish, at the hazard of his own life, any thing which might be said relative to his wife's character or his own. These reflections sometimes lead me almost to the conclusion that he was a hired assassin; but except these facts, I have no positive evidence which would tend to such a conclusion.

CHAPTER VIII.

Intrigues, trial and conviction of J. O. Beauchamp—arrest and examination of his wife.

ALTHOUGH myself and the other members of Col. Sharp's family had soon been satisfied that J. O. Beauchamp was the murderer, yet were we apprehensive, before his examination, that a sufficiency of evidence could not then be procured to send him forward for a further trial. The disclosure of Mr. Darby to Mr. Hardin, that he had been at Beauchamp's house and there heard threats, in some degree allayed our apprehensions. But on hearing his story, we were satisfied that the conversation he pretended to have had with Beauchamp, was an entire fabrication; and so contradictory were his declarations, and so strange his conduct, that we believed no jury would rely upon his evidence as conclusive of the prisoner's guilt. We therefore set on foot the most anxious inquiries for other witnesses, whose knowledge of Beauchamp, his conversations and conduct, would enable us to trace out his agency in this horrid transaction.

It was chiefly with this view, that I made two journeys to the Green river country in the winter and spring of 1826. In my second trip, on the road, I met a gentleman who was afterwards called on as a witness on the trial, on his way to Frankfort for the purpose of informing me that Capt. John F. Lowe was an important witness, and that Mrs. Beauchamp was endeavoring to persuade him to swear falsely for the purpose of procuring the acquittal of her husband. He said, she had furnished Capt. Lowe a paper, to the contents of which she desired him to swear, which would implicate me in the guilt of attempting to buy up evidence by direct bribery. Such turned out to be literally the truth.

M.

Mrs. Beauchamp had furnished Capt. Lowe with a paper in her own hand writing, to the substance of which she desired him to swear, which would prove, among other things, that I had offered money to him for the purpose of inducing him to swear away the life of her husband. Capt. Lowe brought this paper to Frankfort with him, and furnished me with a copy, which I now have in my possession.

Subsequently, and but a few days before the trial, Mrs. Beauchamp gave Capt. Lowe another paper, drawn by her husband in his own hand, implicating Mr. Darby also in the crime of attempting to bribe him to swear falsely, to which she also desired him to swear. This he also preserved and brought to Frankfort. It appeared that this paper was written by Beauchamp in jail, packed up in a pair of socks which were rolled in an old coat, and in that situation sent to his wife by his father. This paper was deemed admissible evidence, was produced on the trial and doubtless had much effect in satisfying the jury of Beauchamp's guilt. It is reported at length in his trial.

These wretches' attempts to fix subornation on myself were prior to their attempts in relation to Mr. Darby, and of precisely the same character. Although the paper relative to myself could not be introduced on the trial, because it was written by Mrs. Beauchamp and not by the prisoner, yet its existence and contents were then well known. Under these circumstances, did Mr. Darby charge myself, the family and friends of Col. Sharp, with acting in concert with Beauchamp to fix subornation and perjury upon him, and even with preparing the paper which he sent to Lowe! So utterly depraved is this man's own heart, that he conceived, or pretended to conceive it possible, that the disconsolate widow, and the mourning brothers and friends of Col. Sharp, were aiding the murderer to escape, and suffering the crime to go unpunished and unrevenged, merely for the sake of fixing on him a minor crime! It is true, that we suspected him of a greater crime—that of acting as the assistant and accomplice of Beauchamp. If we had been capable of shaking in amity, the bloody hand of Beauchamp, and joining with him in intrigues to prove Mr. Darby guilty of subornation and perjury, by committing the same crime ourselves, it would not have tended in the least to prove the justice of our suspicions or the truth of our charges. But with honest men, I need not reason against such a charge, and with dishonest men all arguments would be unavailing. Every heart which is not callous to even the common feelings of human nature, pronounces it false the moment it is uttered. What! Mrs. Sharp willing to spare the murderer of her husband, whom he had called from her bosom and stabbed almost in her embraces, if he will, by another crime, implicate Mr. Darby in subornation and perjury? Impossible! If it were true, she must be, not what

she is, a meek and pious Christian, seeking from Heaven that more than mortal strength which is necessary to sustain her under unequalled afflictions and persecution, but a fiend, unearthly, whom crime cannot daunt nor blood appal! Yet did this man find countenance and support from members of his party, who are called respectable, in making this charge.

The witness, Capt. Lowe, when he came to Frankfort, was invited to Mrs. Sharp's house, where he remained during his continuance in town. The language held by him to Mrs. Sharp and myself was, that the true cause of Col. Sharp's murder was as yet unknown, and he told me that there were circumstances known to him, which, if disclosed, would make my hair stand on end. We urged him to be explicit and full in his statements, and he promised to be so; but said he found great difficulty in determining what to state and what to withhold, because he knew not what would or would not be evidence. Anxious to obtain all the facts within his knowledge, I solicited Mr. Joel Scott and Gen. Covington to converse with him and endeavor to draw from him a complete disclosure of all he knew. They complied with my request, and his statements left on their minds, at the time, an impression that a particular individual, deeply involved in the politics of the country, had been the chief agent in stimulating Beauchamp to the murder. Mr. Scott immediately mentioned this conversation to a friend or friends, and it was soon known to several. He spoke of the impression made on his own mind and the deep concern manifested by Capt. Lowe at the explosion which was about to be produced by the disclosure. However, shortly afterwards, Capt. Lowe called on Mr. Scott, in company with Gen. Covington, explained the conversation, persuaded Mr. Scott that he had taken up an erroneous impression, and induced him, and Gen. Covington solemnly to agree that they would not repeat that conversation. I subsequently called on Mr. Scott to learn what disclosures Capt. Lowe had made. He told me that after the first conversation, Capt. Lowe had called and explained, by which it appeared that he had taken up a wrong impression, and he declined giving me any further information on the subject. I requested him to repeat to me Capt. Lowe's words. He replied, if he did I would then take up the same impression that he had done. I afterwards requested Capt. Lowe to make to me those further disclosures he had promised, which were to cause such an explosion in Frankfort and make my hair stand on end. He declined all further communications to me, observing that he believed he had told me all that was material.

I felt it unkind in Mr. Scott, Gen. Covington and Capt. Lowe, when they declined to put me in possession of those further facts which were to throw light on the motives of this mysterious murder; but I do not in the least question the purity of their intentions.

I have ever believed that Capt. Lowe stated candidly and truly every thing which was essential to the conviction of Beauchamp, but was told that the further facts within his knowledge, were not evidence in that case, and, in consequence of peculiar circumstances, their disclosure could do no good, but might produce much mischief and confusion. Thus was he induced, in his conversations and his evidence, to confine himself to those facts which tended to prove Beauchamp's guilt. It was probably under this conviction of what was right and proper, that he called on Mr. Scott to prevent the further dissemination of facts, which he had, after the conversation, learnt could not be evidence on Beauchamp's trial, and from their character, had better remain unknown. Hence his explanation; hence the agreement of Scott and Covington not to repeat the conversation; hence Mr. Scott's declining to repeat Capt. Lowe's words to me; and hence Lowe's refusal to make the further disclosures which he had promised to make before he knew what would be evidence. Mischief may thus have been prevented in society; but much wrong has been done to my murdered brother, by enabling his murderers and persecutors to attribute his assassination to other motives than the true ones.

On the examination of Mrs. Beauchamp, attempts were made in vain to bring out this conversation. In reply to a question put to him, Capt. Lowe said, "he did not recollect what conversation he had with Mr. Scott and Gen. Covington;" but on being told that it related to what instigated the murder, he said "he had such a conversation, but did not recollect what it was." On the same occasion, Mr. Scott stated, that "himself and Gen. Covington had had conversations with Mr. Lowe, and from his statements, took up an impression that another individual would be criminated in the murder of Col. Sharp; but that from subsequent conversations that impression was removed. He had never disclosed the name of the individual, who, he supposed, would be implicated, and never would."

I know the name of the individual alluded to; but neither do I feel it necessary or prudent to disclose it. The reader will have observed a blank in the statement of Mrs. Dowell. One of the two names there inserted, which I have taken the liberty to suppress, was that of this individual. In his first confessions, Beauchamp alluded to him in a manner not to be misunderstood. Not doubting, as well from these circumstances as others which I do not choose to disclose, that he was one of the chief agents in instigating Beauchamp, nothing but the consideration that it can now do no good, prevents my writing his name in full. It was not Mr. Darby.

Excepting the evidence of Mr. Darby, to which the jury paid not the slightest attention, nothing was proved on the trial of

Beauchamp which could explain the motives of the murderer, or disprove the impression that he had an accomplice or accomplices. A plan was devised, predicated on the disclosures of Capt. Lowe, to supply this deficiency in a manner more satisfactory to the accomplices of Beauchamp as well as the leaders of the old Court party. To those well acquainted with the transaction, it always appeared a little mysterious, that Mrs. Beauchamp was ever apprehended, or after being apprehended, was not committed for further trial. One of the Justices who held the examining court in her case, had conversed with Capt. Lowe and knew all his evidence well; and it was this knowledge upon which he issued his warrant for the arrest of Mrs. Beauchamp. That warrant was wholly unauthorized by law. How happened it, that with a full knowledge of the evidence, he issued this illegal warrant, or that after issuing it, he did not commit her for trial? Having heard the evidence, he knew whether she ought to have been committed, as well before he issued his warrant as after the examination. The chief reason given for not committing her, that the *principal* was in the hands of justice, would also have weighed just as heavily against issuing the warrant. She was plainly proved to have been an accomplice, and yet was she set at liberty. Indeed, the whole proceeding was illegal, as she ought to have been examined in the county where *her* offence was committed.

I know not how to account for these things, except from the consideration, that the evidence which it was known would be disclosed on her examination, was considered very necessary to protect Mr. Darby and his associates, and would be very important to the leaders of the old Court party. It was their aim to make the world believe, that Beauchamp had committed the murder from private motives and had no accomplice. Mrs. Beauchamp's declarations to Capt. Lowe, tended to establish both of these points. He had no doubt stated in the presence of gentlemen of the old Court party, as he swore on the examination, that Mrs. Beauchamp told him, as a mark of her husband's affection, that "he had determined to kill Col. Sharp for the injuries he had done her." If this could be established, then it would follow, that the murder resulted from private wrongs. He doubtless stated also, that "Mrs. Beauchamp told him, that her husband had got a negro to show him where Col. Sharp slept," &c. and that "she told him also, that Beauchamp had got the shoes he wore when he killed Col. Sharp, about Tully Payne's house." If this were established, it would prove that no associate showed him the house, and that the tracks across the garden, of some person deliberately approaching and rapidly receding from Col. Sharp's house, might still be the tracks of Beauchamp, although they did not correspond with his shoes, and were not the tracks of an accomplice. He doubtless stated, that "Mrs. Beauchamp told

him, that her husband wanted to kill Col. Sharp publicly, but that she got on her knees and begged him not to take that course; and finally prevailed on him to do it privately." If this could be established, it would give some probability to Mr. Darby's statement, that Beauchamp threatened to come to Frankfort and shoot Col. Sharp in the streets, by showing why he changed his mind. The establishment of these points was of prime importance to Mr. Darby and his political friends, as well as Beauchamp's associates in guilt. To get out these statements was worth the sending for Mrs. Beauchamp under an illegal warrant, and subjecting her to the mockery of an examination. Considering all the circumstances of the case, I can attribute this singular step to no other motive.

Let us now see how far each of these declarations of Mrs. Beauchamp to Capt. Lowe, were true, or were calculated to prove that the murder originated in private injuries; or that Beauchamp had no accomplice.

It was some time after the marriage of Beauchamp, that she told Lowe her husband had determined to kill Col. Sharp, for the injuries he had done her; but he could not recollect the exact time. They were married in June 1824. From the character of the conversation, considerable time must have elapsed after the marriage before it was held. Capt. Lowe had predicted that Beauchamp would not make a good husband; Mrs. Beauchamp had been married long enough to try him and assure the witness that he had been mistaken. Several months had therefore elapsed. Col. Sharp took his political course in December 1824; and the papers of the Court of Appeals were seized in February 1825. Soon after that event, Col. Sharp was talked of as a candidate, and his enemies began to collect the materials to assail him. Then took place the correspondence with Beauchamp, the visits to his house and the fatal determination evinced by the forged letter of the 27th June 1825. The communication of Mrs. Beauchamp to Capt. Lowe, was probably after they had received the letters from Frankfort, informing them that Col. Sharp was secretly circulating the story of the black child, and that was the injury to which Mrs. Beauchamp alluded. This would indeed prove, that the chief motive in the mind of the murderer was supposed private wrongs; but it would prove also, that this tale was fabricated and communicated to those abandoned wretches for the purpose of inducing them to assail Col. Sharp's character or take his life. It would show that Beauchamp's motive might have been personal; but it would also show, that the murder originated in motives entirely different. This declaration of Mrs. Beauchamp to Capt. Lowe, instead of disproving the agency of other men with other motives in this crime, when taken in connection with other circumstances now known to ex-

ist, confirms the idea that Beauchamp was instigated by base falsehoods communicated to him from Frankfort, for base or criminal purposes. Mrs. Beauchamp's statement to Capt. Lowe, that a negro showed Beauchamp where Col. Sharp slept, is undoubtedly false. When she made it, she was endeavoring to persuade him to save her husband by false swearing; and to rid himself of her solicitations, he told her, that he was afraid that some body was with Beauchamp; that the truth might be hereafter disclosed, and then he would be sent to the Penitentiary for perjury. After some hesitation, she told him he need not be afraid; that a negro showed him where Col. Sharp slept, and a negro could not be a witness against him. Capt. Lowe told me, he did not himself believe it at the time; but considered it an invention of Mrs. Beauchamp to satisfy him that there was no danger to be apprehended from future disclosures, should he comply with her request.

The statement about bringing the shoes in which he committed the murder from Tully Payne's, was of the same character. It had been ascertained, that the track across the garden, did not correspond with Beauchamp's shoes, and the inference then was, that it was the track of an accomplice. To explain this, Mrs. Beauchamp told Lowe that Beauchamp took from Tully Payne's the shoes in which he committed the murder; and, therefore, the track might be his, although it did not correspond with his shoes. That these statements were invented for the occasion, is shown by a variety of circumstances corroborated by Beauchamp's confession. Considerable pains were taken in Frankfort to discover the negro who was said to have shown the murderer where Col. Sharp slept; but all inquiries proved fruitless. In his confession, instead of saying a negro showed him the house, Beauchamp says, "I had learned from a source which the offer of life would scarcely wring from me, where Col. Sharp lived." Instead of saying he wore shoes which he brought from Tully Payne's, he says, "I put on two pair of yarn socks, to preserve my feet in running, and to avoid my being pursued by the direction in which I might be heard running in the dark, if I had worn my shoes." This statement is rendered probable by the dust found on Mr. Scott's hearth the next morning, which he had probably beat off his socks. It would seem, that these falsehoods, invented to satisfy Capt. Lowe that he might swear Beauchamp clear without any danger of future disclosures through an accomplice, were deemed of sufficient value to justify the sending for Mrs. Beauchamp to Frankfort, most illegally, and going through the formality of a mock examination. Mr. Darby was much aided in his slanders, and an impression was created that Beauchamp was actuated solely by injuries done to his wife and committed the crime without accomplices.

I confess, I sometimes think that there was a deeper scheme in this transaction. Darby had been to Beauchamp's house before the murder, and visited Col. Sharp in a most mysterious manner the day preceding that event. The very day the crime was committed, a rumor was in circulation, that a negro had shown the murderer where Col. Sharp slept. I made efforts to trace up this rumor to its source, but could only follow it into certain families in which Mr. Darby was intimate. Never could it be traced to any source, nor could any negro ever be found who had shown the house. Whence came this rumor? Not from Beauchamp; for he would not stop to tell it. Not from a negro; for he could have no motive to conceal himself. From whom was it more likely to have come than from an accomplice, who threw out the suggestion to lead the public mind, at the very outset, to the conclusion that there were no accomplices? Thus he might hope to secure himself. It will have struck the reader as remarkable, that this rumor corresponded with the statement made by Mrs. Beauchamp to Capt. Lowe. Whence this correspondence? Was it agreed between Beauchamp, his wife and their accomplice or accomplices, that this story should be thrown out to save the last, even if the former were detected?

It will have been seen in Mrs. Dowell's statement, that Mrs. Beauchamp told her, Mr. Darby was at their house *after her husband's apprehension*. An arrangement, in the first instance made with Beauchamp, might then have been continued with his wife, by which they were, as far as possible, to save each other harmless. There are two or three facts which give some colour to this suspicion. Mr. Darby had stated, that Beauchamp threatened to come to Frankfort and shoot down Col. Sharp in the streets. It seemed necessary to show why he did not take this course, and Mrs. Beauchamp tells Capt. Lowe, "that Beauchamp wanted to kill Col. Sharp publicly; but that she got on her knees and begged him not to take that course, and finally prevailed on him to do it privately." This not only carried the idea of deep personal wrongs, but tended to confirm Mr. Darby's testimony.

But one of the most remarkable things connected with this affair, was Mr. Darby's strange and contradictory conduct while in the Green river country in the spring of 1826, and after his return. On his way down, he called on the midwife so often alluded to, and after conversing with her, avowed himself perfectly satisfied of Col. Sharp's innocence. He goes on and has an interview with Mrs. Beauchamp. What follows? Mrs. Beauchamp tells Lowe these false tales, inducing an impression that the murder resulted wholly from private injuries, and confirming Mr. Darby's evidence, while he, on his return to Frankfort, becomes the open advocate of Mrs. Beauchamp and the apologist of her husband! He hypocritically admits that he had been satisfied

by information derived from the midwife and Mr. Fort, that the child of Mrs. Beauchamp was a mulatto child and Col. Sharp was innocent, and the only reason he gives for changing that opinion is, that "he could distinctly see, that no person with whom he conversed on the subject in Bowlinggreen, believed the child was a mulatto or of a mixed blood"! Contrary to the evidence, he suffers his conviction to be changed by the opinions of those who, probably, had never heard it in detail. Not only does he pretend to have changed his convictions upon this slight ground, but he pronounces the charge that Mrs. Beauchamp was a bad woman, "a notoriously bad and infamous falsehood." "The breath of public suspicion," says he, "had never crossed the path of Mrs. Beauchamp, until she announced her own guilt and shame, from what she said was an improper and imprudent intercourse with Col. Sharp. She was of high and honorable family connections; she was well informed, intelligent and moved in the best circles of society."—"Since that unfortunate transaction, Mrs. Beauchamp has not mixed with society or returned the visits of any one. That she has lived in her present retired situation as a recluse; and without the act or even suspicion of immorality or error in her conduct. Every thing, therefore, which they have said of her, is false and slanderous." Gaining courage as he advances in eulogizing this miserable wretch, he proceeds to justify the crime of her husband. "If he dies," says he, "under all the circumstances of his case, he will die, not so much for the death of Col. Sharp, as for the manner of doing it," &c. The publication from which these extracts are taken, was made on the 29th of April, in the Commentator.

What was Mr. Darby's motive in thus becoming the apologist and eulogist of murderers? Could he have been fulfilling a private agreement with Mrs. Beauchamp? Was he to vindicate her, in consideration that she should hold him harmless? There is much ground for suspicion, and it is still further strengthened by the fact, that in his confession, Beauchamp contradicts that part of his wife's statement to Lowe which tended to confirm Mr. Darby's tale. He says, "it was a conviction of Governor Desha's partiality and a belief that it was sanctioned by every law of justice and right, &c. and not my wife's getting on her knees to me, that induced me to change my purpose of killing Col. Sharp publicly, and do it privately." Although these things are mysterious, I do not adopt the idea, that Mr. Darby and Mrs. Beauchamp acted in entire concert in these transactions. I rather incline to the opinion, that most of Mrs. Beauchamp's statements to Lowe, were made with a view of inducing him to comply with her wishes in swearing her husband clear, and that Mr. Darby and his friends seized on those falsehoods, for the purpose of deceiving the world as to the cause and the motives of the murder, and of

warding off suspicion from some of the adherents of the old Court party. Mr. Darby doubtless knew by what means the falsehood, that Col. Sharp was circulating the story of the black child, was communicated to Beauchamp and wife, and it was important that those deluded wretches should continue to labor under the impression that it was true. The knowledge of its entire falsehood might lead them to make unpleasant disclosures. The chief burden of all Mr. Darby's publications, was to establish this point. Every species of falsehood and perversion were put in requisition, and such a show was made, that many who knew neither Mr. Darby nor Col. Sharp, were deluded, and have not yet been undeceived. Beauchamp and his wife died under this delusion, and doubtless thought they had aggravated provocation for their crime, until they met their victim at the bar of a just God.

In addition to the explanations brought out on Mrs. Beauchamp's examination, another important object was accomplished by her apprehension. Papers of weighty import were in her possession. Unless these could be destroyed there was danger of further developments. Nothing was more natural, than that when she found herself in danger, as an accomplice in the murder, she would cause the destruction of every paper which could throw any light on the transaction. Such was the result. The letters her husband had received and left in her custody, were committed to the flames, and nothing was left to support even their own confessions in relation to facts and accomplices. I do not say, that this object operated on those who had a direct agency in sending for Mrs. Beauchamp; because I have no suspicion, that they knew of the existence of those papers. But this was the effect of that measure, and an event which was very necessary to the safety, or at least the character, of some individuals. It is not impossible, that some of those who had a deep interest in their destruction may have covertly promoted her arrest; but of that I know nothing decisive.

From the facts I have stated, the reader will perceive, that all the evidence disclosed on Mrs. Beauchamp's examination, tending to show that her husband had no accomplice, originated in an attempt to induce Capt. Lowe to swear Beauchamp clear, and in point of fact, was entirely false. All that part of it which tended to show, that the murder originated in injuries to Mrs. Beauchamp, instead of being inconsistent with the proof I have adduced, that Col. Sharp never seduced that woman and in reality never did her any injury, only confirms the belief, that they were falsely informed in the spring of 1825, as a means to stimulate Beauchamp against Col. Sharp, that he was circulating the story of the black child, and that this was the supposed injury of which Mrs. Beauchamp spoke.

CHAPTER IX.

Conduct of J. O. Beauchamp after conviction—the treatment he received from individuals of the two political parties and its effects.

IN his voluminous publications, Mr. Darby has charged the Governor and his political friends, including myself and even Mrs. Sharp, with conspiring in the first instance to acquit Beauchamp and implicate him, by the perjury of Capt. Lowe; and in the second instance, to pardon Beauchamp on condition that he would implicate him and a number of the leaders of the old Court party.

The falsehood of the first charge is proved by the entire absence of all correspondence between Beauchamp and the persons charged, as proved by the statement of the Jailer; by the fact, that Beauchamp made the same attempt in relation to me, that he did in relation to Darby; and by a full disclosure of the manner in which the document prepared for Lowe to swear to, had been sent from jail and reached its destination. But had all this evidence been absent, the idea that we could be willing that the real murderer should escape, if we could implicate any other, is too irrational and shocking to be conceived by any other man than Darby, and need no refutation with men of good feelings and honest hearts.

To the second charge, the same answer might be made, so far as it relates to Mrs. Sharp or myself. But there are facts which prove conclusively, that Beauchamp never had other than faint hopes of a pardon, and only dared to ask the Governor for a respite. One of his first steps after receiving sentence of death, was to write to some of those who, he presumed, had some influence over public opinion and over the Governor, begging them to intercede for him, on condition, that if set at liberty, he would abandon the country forever. From these individuals he received not a particle of encouragement. Yet, there were many in the country who were ready to petition for his pardon. Some distrusted the evidence and had doubts of his guilt; others, having imbibed their opinions of the cause of the murder from Darby's publications, thought Beauchamp in some degree excusable, even if he were guilty. Petitions were started in some quarters and were procuring many signatures. But by a step to which he seems to have been led by an inconsiderate vanity which made him consider himself superior to the whole world in schemes and intrigues, he effectually put a stop to all petitions and shut the door of mercy.

He had furnished himself with all the publications of the times, and being utterly depraved himself, he seems to have given full cre-

dence to all Darby's assertions as to the characters of the Governor and his friends, and thought he had nothing to do but to show that some of the old Court party had stimulated him to the murder, to induce all the new Court party instantly to petition for his pardon and the Governor readily to grant it. He, therefore, confessed the crime, gave a long detail of particulars, implicated Darby by name as an accomplice, and said that several others, whose names he withheld, were engaged in stimulating him to the horrid deed. He seems to have anticipated an immediate accomplishment of all his wishes from this disclosure. He had even the assurance to procure a preacher to write to Mrs. Sharp and send a messenger to myself, representing that he had been deceived into the murder by false information given him by Mr. Darby and others, and enquiring whether we would not, under these circumstances, petition for his pardon! We sent for answer, that nothing which he could say or do, would ever induce us to petition for his life, as no representations made to him could palliate his crime.

All hope of an immediate pardon in consequence of his confession, through the agency of Col. Sharp's family and friends, seems soon to have been at an end. He then adopted the project of having it published, and by an appeal to the sympathies of the country and a representation of the falsehoods by which he had been led to commit the crime, he supposed the great body of the people, and especially those of the new Court party, would be induced to petition for his pardon. With these hopes and projects in his head, he wrote to the Governor under date of June 5th, 1826, and used the following language:

*"Dear Sir—*You are constituted, by the voice of my country, the Chief Magistrate to whom I must appeal for my country's mercy, having forfeited my life by a violation of its laws. I have the great unhappiness to learn your own feelings are against that appeal. But, sir, I have also the happiness to know, that acting as the representative of this people, you are influenced by no feelings but theirs. I am preparing an appeal to my country for its mercy to mitigate its sentence of death upon me and permit me to go into perpetual exile. I will not appeal to your Excellency for an exercise of the high prerogative of pardon, unless I can first gain the voice of my country in my behalf."

He then proceeds to ask a reprieve until after the election, to give him time to publish an appeal to the country and ascertain its effect. To this application the Governor returned no answer. What hope does he here express of a pardon? None, unless the country should petition for it. So far from expecting a pardon, he had been informed that the Governor's feelings were against it. All he hoped, was to operate on the Governor through petitions from the people.

He soon completed his appeal, setting forth the manner of the murder and the arts by which he was stimulated to commit it. But he could find no printer who would undertake to print it, and it was returned to him in jail. He now endeavored to persuade Mr. Edrington, his guard, to take it and have it printed; but on reading it, he also declined having any thing to do with it. To Mr. Edrington he acknowledged, that he had not much hopes from its publication, and now seems to have despaired of a pardon entirely, and turned his thoughts to other means for effecting an escape. After some conversation with his wife, in a whisper, the latter introduced a conversation with Mr. Edrington and offered him a bribe of a thousand dollars, if he would let him out of jail. He promptly told them, that nothing could tempt him to be faithless to his trust. Mrs. Beauchamp then represented, that her husband was not fit to die, and begged him, by his regard for an immortal soul, to aid him in making his escape, that he might have time to repent. They found Mr. Edrington entirely inflexible. He had been selected for this duty on account of his known integrity and firmness, and there is no man from whom they could have had less hopes. Beauchamp could not then have relied on the Governor for a pardon, or these extraordinary efforts to escape, would not have been made.

Another incident occurred which conclusively proved that he never had a hope of pardon after the failure of his attempts to procure the publication of his confession. He wrote a letter intended for his uncle, Col. J. Beauchamp, in which he stated that the only chance of saving his life consisted in his breaking the jail and making his escape by eluding the vigilance of the guard. He laid down an ingenious plan of operations, begging his uncle to procure him a saw of a particular description, and prescribed the manner in which it was to be sent to him. Without Beauchamp's knowledge, this letter fell into the hands of the guard and never reached his uncle. The guard never mentioned the letter or its contents to a human being until after the execution, and he supposes that Beauchamp died under the impression that his uncle had received it and would not aid him in the only means he could devise for saving his life. It was doubtless this belief, that made him say, near the close of his life, that he forgave every body but his uncle Jerry. He supposed his uncle had received the letter and would not save him, and for this it was difficult for him to grant forgiveness.

Does this look as if he expected a pardon from the Governor on any condition whatever? Is not his own declaration in a confidential letter which was intended for no mortal eye, except his whose assistance he solicited, conclusive that he expected nothing but stern justice at the hands of the Governor and his friends? Does not his plan for breaking the jail prove, indeed, that he had no hopes of pardon?

It is proper I should remark, that this letter negatived the idea that his uncle had any knowledge of his design, which had evidently originated with himself; but he could not carry it into effect without the instrument which he begged the old gentleman to send him. On examination after this letter was intercepted, his chains were found filed asunder, so that they could be slipped off at pleasure, and he was evidently waiting for a co-operation from without, which never came. He stated, that the file was carried into the prison by his wife; but I have no doubt from facts communicated to me, that it was furnished him by a friend in Frankfort.

Unable to make an impression on the country by publishing a confession and exciting the people to petition the Governor for his pardon; unable to bribe or seduce the guard from his duty; having looked in vain for the means to enable him to break the jail; the miserable wretch, seeing death at hand, again appealed to the Governor, who only had power to save him. Late in the evening of the 5th July he transmitted the following petition:

"The petition of J. O. Beauchamp to his Excellency, Joseph Desha, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Your petitioner and supplicant prays a respite of the sentence of the law upon me, for thirty days, for the sole purpose of completing the publication which he has nearly completed, giving a full and minute account of all the causes which led to, and the circumstances which attended, the assassination of Col. Sharp; and for the purpose of better preparing his soul to meet the forgiveness of almighty God. I will never petition your Excellency for a pardon. I am reconciled to die. But I think the respite I ask is due to the community. I cannot, nor will I, ever leave an incomplete disclosure to be taken advantage of by my enemies and yours. I do humbly pray your Excellency to apprise me frankly to-night, whether you will grant me the respite I pray."

It is evident, that the wretch had some hope of influencing the Governor by the intimation that he had something depending on his disclosures. This brought from the Governor the prompt reply, that he could not interfere and the law must take its course.

This answer was carried back to Beauchamp and his wife. They then resorted to the means they had provided as the last alternative, when all hopes of escape, pardon and respite failed, and swallowed laudanum. This, however, had not the desired effect, and on the morning of the execution they were both found stabbed with a knife which he had kept and prepared for this extremity.

When we consider, that Beauchamp never contemplated asking for a pardon, because he knew the Governor's feelings were averse

to it, unless he could come backed with the expressed wishes of the country; that he made an effort to throw out a publication solely with a view of obtaining this public expression in his favor; that on failure in this design, he attempted to bribe and seduce his guard to aid him in making his escape; that he then devised a plan for breaking the jail, and in a confidential letter designed for his uncle, represented that as the only means of saving his life; that in his last appeal to the Governor, he declared he *would never ask for a pardon*, but only solicited a respite of thirty days; and that he had long before provided and kept by him the means of self destruction; the mind must be credulous indeed, which can believe that the Governor, or any other person, held out to him a hope of pardon as a reward for implicating Mr. Darby or any of his political associates. He doubtless had hopes of a pardon on a disclosure of the means used to stimulate him to commit the murder; but not receiving the slightest encouragement, he determined to show his devotion to his party even in death, declared his first confession false and left another better suited to the tastes and the designs of those friends upon whose "*word*," to use his own expression, he "*had offered up his life*."

Why his first confession was withdrawn and another made, may be readily imagined upon due consideration of his own feelings and destitution of principle, together with the course pursued towards him by different individuals while he was in jail. Very few of the new Court party, and none of those whom Mr. Darby has most loudly charged with conspiring with Beauchamp to destroy him and implicate the old Court party, ever visited Beauchamp in jail or carried on any correspondence with him. Notwithstanding his letters to them, they kept entirely aloof, neither answering them nor seeing him, being determined to leave him to his fate. They neither furnished him with meat, nor drink, nor hope, nor consolation. His own vain folly induced him to confess the crime, implicating Mr. Darby and others. He soon found himself wofully mistaken in his calculations upon the character and course of the Governor and his friends, and the first gleam of hope vanished from his dungeon. In the meantime, many of the old Court party were assiduous in their attentions to him and his wife. On the arrival of the latter in Frankfort, the sympathies expressed for her by certain ladies connected with that party, were as disgusting as they were surprising. Some of them were ready to offer her rooms in their houses, while others were eager to administer to her comforts and her pleasures. Old Court Lawyers volunteered for her to save her from trial and punishment, and nothing was omitted which was calculated to excite kind feelings in her bosom towards the prominent members of that party in this place. Nor did the sympathies of these people at all abate after Beauchamp had confessed the crime and implica-

ted both himself and his wife as well as Mr. Darby, in the atrocious murder. Wine, cakes, fruits and every species of luxury and delicacy, were showered upon them in profusion, and these blood-stained felons ate and drank like a King and Queen. Yes, *ladies*, who have *husbands* and *children*, pampered with every kind of luxury, these abandoned wretches, who had called a husband and father from the warm embraces of an affectionate wife and stabbed him to the heart in her presence! What could have been their motives? Did they approve of the crime? Could a wife applaud and reward the murderer of a husband? Could a mother load with caresses and favors, those who had made little children fatherless? Can any woman look at her own husband and little ones, and then approve of the murder of Col. Sharp! I cannot believe, that those who treated these wretches with such extravagant marks of kindness, were actuated by approbation of the crime of which they stood convicted. The idea is too horrible. Their conduct must be traced to a motive less inhuman and less unnatural.

From the time of Col. Sharp's murder, a few of the political leaders of the old Court party in Frankfort, appeared to entertain a feverish apprehension, that some disclosure would be made, showing that this crime had sprung from the reckless violence of their own denunciations in the electioneering contest of 1825. In some few, this apprehension was the stronger on account of their entire knowledge of the manner in which Beauchamp was stimulated to the deed. They knew well the true character of Beauchamp and his wife, and felt themselves measurably in their power. In Mr. Darby's publications, Beauchamp had been excused for the crime, and even justified in all but the manner of committing it, while Mrs. Beauchamp was lauded as a paragon of excellence who had only once erred, and then through the seductive arts of Col. Sharp. The mass of the old Court party were thus operated on through their party prejudices, by the arts of a few cunning and guilty men, until they were ready, ignorantly and innocently, to promote their views by denouncing Col. Sharp and paying to his murderers all kinds of attentions. This course was well calculated to keep Beauchamp in the dark as to the truth of the representations which had been made to him relative to the conduct of Col. Sharp; to foster his hatred of that distinguished man and his party, and to cherish his good feelings towards his friends and associates of the old Court party.

But the love of life overcame every other consideration. Beauchamp had furnished himself with all the Frankfort papers containing Darby's publications as well as those which appeared on the other side. He seems to have taken up the idea so common to the profligate men of his party, that the Governor and his friends were actuated only by a regard for their own interest and the

success of the party, and would even spare a convicted murderer, if he appeared to be in any way useful to their designs! In his own case, he seems to have supposed that he had only to show that some of the old Court party had excited him to commit the murder, and he would be entirely safe. On the very evening after he received sentence of death, he, for the first time, disclosed to his uncle the fatal secret. He confessed the murder, gave all the particulars, charged Darby with acting with him, and others of the old Court party with stimulating him. He enumerated many circumstances, some of which turned out to be true, and expressed the utmost sorrow and contrition for his crime. But this confession did not have the expected effect. The members of the new Court party generally kept at a cold distance, and most of those who visited him, told him that he must die. He could not procure from the Governor even the promise of a respite. He could get no person to publish his confession. Of a pardon he had no hope except by exciting the sympathies of the country, and he could not do that, because no one would give publicity to his appeal. He now discovered that he had formed a wrong estimate of the character of the new Court men with whom he had to deal, and that they were not ready to pardon a murderer merely because he was the deluded tool of some of their political adversaries. He now stood in the attitude of a murderer of a party leader on one side, and a betrayer of those who had stimulated him on the other, and was likely to die abhorred by all men, both as a murderer and a traitor. In the meantime, a few of the old Court party continued to ply him and his wife with their kindness, while all the members of the other party left him to perish in his crimes. Becoming entirely satisfied, that he had nothing to expect from the new Court party, and that the old Court party would heap curses on his memory, if he left the world without withdrawing the imputations cast on them, he determined to retract what he had said, and die as he had lived, in the act of gratifying his malignant feelings. As soon as he had lost all hope of pardon from his first confession, he privately commenced writing that which has since his death been published. Nearly the whole story, from beginning to end, is a mere creature of fancy, without a particle of truth to sustain it, prepared with a design to degrade the memory of Col. Sharp, give vent to his malignant feelings against such of his family as had brought him to the gallows, and to be revenged upon such of his political friends as had lent a deaf ear to his petitions, to exonerate the leaders of the old Court party, and represent himself as the avenger of outraged virtue and the victim of inexorable laws. For this tissue of malice and falsehood, the world is undoubtedly indebted to the kindness of certain individuals of the old Court party towards him while in jail, to his political hatred towards Col. Sharp, the Governor and their

friends, and to a desire to die with the sympathy of at least a portion of his fellow men. Indeed, I have been told, that he said to his uncle, if not to his father, that in exonerating Mr. Darby his only object was to excite towards himself the sympathies of the old Court party, as he had nothing to expect from the other party, and could not bear to die with the detestation of all mankind resting on his memory. To exonerate the old Court party, it was necessary to say that Darby, who was one of their most noisy, if not one of their principal men, did not participate in the crime; but to revenge himself upon that man for betraying him, he left him covered with the charge of perjury. The charge of participating in the murder involved Darby's party along with him; but the charge of perjury was personal and belonged only to the individual. Thus Beauchamp died, exonerating all the old Court party from participation in the crime, and wielding his pen against the surviving members of the new Court party as he had done his dagger against Col. Sharp. In his own language, he died "*Old Court up to the hub.*"

CHAPTER X.

Beauchamp's Confession.

IN the preceding Chapter the reader will have traced the conduct and motives of Beauchamp after his conviction.

His first confession of the crime was made to his uncle, in the hearing of the jailer, on the evening of the very day in which he received sentence of death. In this narrative he stated, that he had never entertained a hostile feeling towards Col. Sharp until the year 1825, when he was informed, by letters from Frankfort and by Mr. Darby and another on visits to his house, that he was circulating a report, that the child had by Mrs. Beauchamp before marriage, was a mulatto; that he determined to come to Frankfort and shoot down Col. Sharp in the street; that he was dissuaded from this course by Mr. Darby and his wife; that by special appointment, Darby met him, on the night of the murder, at the bridge; that he again met him in the ruins of the State House; that Darby showed him Col. Sharp's house, informing where the Colonel slept, and was at hand when he committed the murder; that they ran together past the house of Mr. Bibb, then up Montgomery street, then along the street passing the Governor's house, not far from which he concealed the knife. He said,

that Col. Sharp lost his life, not on account of his being a candidate, but on account of his agency in wresting the papers of the Court of Appeals from the hands of the old Clerk. He said, that he had the handkerchief found at Col. Sharp's door, over his hand when he committed the murder, and lost it in a slight scuffle with his victim after he gave the fatal stab. The evidence against him, with the exception of Darby's, he pronounced to be in the main correct. He said, it was concerted between him and Darby, that if he became suspected and was pursued, Darby was to report that he had seen him at Brandenburg and there heard him threaten the life of Col. Sharp; but on his being brought back, should feign entire ignorance of him, and on Darby's testimony he was to be set at liberty. But he said, that Darby had been scared out of a fulfilment of their private engagement by the suspicions which arose against himself, and in self defence had become the most zealous man living to produce his conviction, for which purpose he had manufactured a tale and sworn to it, in which there was no truth from beginning to end.

Although I give no credit to Beauchamp's statements, except so far as they are sustained by other evidence, I deem his first confession more likely to be true than his printed book, and it contained many particulars which have been proved to be true.

It has been stated by those who were acquainted with him, that he did not expect to be convicted upon the evidence submitted to the jury. After their verdict, he did not expect a sentence of death, because he fully believed that all laws for the punishment of murder in this State, had been inadvertently repealed. He had not, therefore, preconcerted a story to tell his uncle. He had not had time to consult any body on the subject and learn what effect the story he was about to tell, might have upon the Governor or the public. It was the first and spontaneous movement of his heart after receiving sentence of death, and therefore more likely to be true, than tales told, with fiendlike malice, after he had lost every hope of pardon, and, heedless as he was of every thing beyond the grave, became desirous of leaving behind him something like respect in the party with which he had acted.

But many of the incidents then stated by him, are proved to be true by other evidence. He said he never entertained any hostility to Col. Sharp until 1825. I have proved by the most conclusive testimony, that he actually had no such malice down to the year 1824. He said he received letters from Frankfort relating to Col. Sharp's conduct. This is proved to be true by his own and his wife's uniform statements, and by the evidence of his neighbors. He said that Darby had been at his house. The truth of this, Darby himself acknowledged to Benjamin Hardin, Esq. He said he determined to shoot Col. Sharp in the street. Darby says, Beauchamp told him the same thing. He said, Darby was to state

that he had seen him at Brandenburg and then pretend not to know him, that he might thus escape. Darby did state, that he had seen him at Brandenburg, and on seeing him, did pretend not to know him. Two persons were seen after midnight before Col. Sharp's house, where Beauchamp said he was with Darby. Two persons were heard running by Mr. Bibb's, where Beauchamp said he ran with Darby. The knife with which the murder was committed, was found near the Governor's, where Beauchamp said he had hid it. The handkerchief was found on the steps of the room where Col. Sharp was murdered, where Beauchamp said he had lost it, was again brought in and was thrown out of the door where it was afterwards found.

This coincidence of Beauchamp's first statements with known facts, induces me to believe, that they were substantially true. But from motives and feelings, which have been already explained, he afterwards retracted this confession and put forth another with the object of saving his party, palliating his crime and satiating his malice, even in death. That the whole chain of his published confession is false, I have it in my power most conclusively to prove.

In Beauchamp's book, or rather in the book which has been published as his confession, he represents his first acquaintance with Ann Cook, to have commenced about 1820, and to have been induced by a vivid representation of her virtues and her injuries. He would have the world believe, that the visits of a profligate young man of eighteen, who was the father of several bastards, to a dissolute woman of thirty-five, arose from a most Platonic friendship, which afterwards assumed the character of love! By his book it would seem, that they were the most virtuous and most chaste of mortals, whom the very thoughts of seduction and illicit intercourse, could stimulate to blood and vengeance. So far is this from the truth, that their intercourse was of the most profligate kind, as proved by their own admissions, and it was doubtless an attraction the reverse of chastity and virtue, that made him first seek her society. So abhorrent does he represent himself to have been of every violation of female virtue, that he even anticipated, before he courted Ann Cook, that he should have to kill Col. Sharp before he could make her his wife! By his account, she entertained precisely the same notion, which, after she had several times listened to his addresses, she communicated to him, and made Col. Sharp's murder a condition precedent to their marriage. To fulfil this condition, he represents himself to have come to Frankfort where Col. Sharp then was, and after in vain attempting to provoke him to a fight, to have been deceived by a false rumor and returned to Bowlinggreen, expecting to find his victim there. But finding he had been deluded, he gave up the chase and waited for Col. Sharp to visit that country, and on

such an occasion, afterwards attempted to allure him to Ann Cook's residence for the purpose of murdering him there. But he was again eluded, and although he watched the Courts at Bowlinggreen "with a hawk's eye," he never again saw him there, nor did he again seek him in Frankfort; but on the contrary got married to Ann Cook.

There are a variety of circumstances which prove this whole story to be false. In the first place, had Col. Sharp actually been the father of her child, it is impossible that a man and woman of their confirmed habits, could have felt an affair of that kind so severely as to have made them hazard their necks to avenge it, five years afterwards. It is impossible, that a profligate young man could have been induced, for the bare privilege of marrying his own mistress, to kill a man who was not pretended to have committed any offence but enjoying her before him. In the next place, Col. Sharp never was her seducer or the father of her child, as I have shown. In the third place, Col. Sharp was at Bowlinggreen several times and spent some weeks there attending Court, while Beauchamp was also attending Court or residing in the neighborhood, and had numerous opportunities to execute his bloody design, if he had formed it. In the fourth place, he was doing business for Col. Sharp and expressed the most exalted opinion of him, until at least the year 1824. In the fifth place, both Beauchamp and his wife said, before and after the murder, that Col. Sharp had done her no injury. In the sixth place, the story is in itself contradictory as well as false. He represents that he was to kill Col. Sharp as a condition precedent to marriage; for he says, "I never for a moment could feel, that I could suffer a villain to live, who had been the seducer of one I pressed to my bosom as a wife." Again, after Col. Sharp had, as he pretends, evaded him by deceit, he says, "we then determined to delay marrying till Col. Sharp should come to settle up his affairs at Bowlinggreen," &c. Again, after the Colonel had eluded him as he pretends at Bowlinggreen, he says, "for in fact, I did feel, that I never could call Miss Cook my wife, till Col. Sharp should die at my hands; and she said she felt unworthy of me, and would feel that she had degraded me by marrying me, before I had revenged the injury she had received." Yet, did this miserable couple get married in June 1824, without taking the life of Col. Sharp, and Beauchamp "pressed her to his bosom as a wife," until November 1825, before he performed the condition which was so indispensable to their union. This proves the falsehood of the whole tale relative to this murder being a condition of the marriage.

But in other places, he gives another and a contradictory reason for the postponement of the marriage. He says, "we had postponed marrying until I could finish the study of the law," and

"when I had completed my studies, we got married." Now, if the marriage was postponed to give him time to finish his studies, it was not postponed for the purpose of enabling him first to kill Col. Sharp.

In truth, both of these reasons for postponing the marriage, are utterly false. Beauchamp was eager to marry soon after his intercourse with this woman commenced; but he was a minor and his father refused his consent. In vain he tried to alarm his father and also to extort a marriage licence from the Clerk. He was compelled to wait, not until he could kill Col. Sharp, nor indeed until he could finish his studies; but until he was twenty-one years old. From the moment he could dispose of himself, he seems to have been eager to seal his destiny by an union with one whom he knew to be among the most profligate of human kind, and the reader will have seen what means she took to hasten the consummation of that event. She was not so anxious that Beauchamp should "revenge the injury she had received," nor did she feel so "unworthy of him," or so fearful of "degrading him," but that she could approach him with a lie in her mouth to hasten their nuptials. She told him she should bare him a child in a short time, and by this falsehood showed that she craved more the possession of Beauchamp than the murder of Col. Sharp. These contradictions and falsehoods, with the attendant circumstances, are sufficient to prove Beauchamp's whole tale of malice entertained before his marriage, and indeed before the year 1825, to be an entire fabrication made up for the purpose of leading the public mind off from his accomplices, and make the murder appear less outrageous in relation to himself. As he proceeds in his narrative, he interweaves, as an aggravating circumstance, that which, in his first confession, he made the sole exciting cause of the murder. He says, "but before the election, an incident occurred which settled my purpose, that if Col. Sharp did not soon come into that country, I would seek him in whatever corner of the world he might be hid. Some little time before the election, I received a letter from a gentleman, who at that time lived in the whole world, informing me of the reports and insinuations which Col. Sharp and his family had circulated, that the child of my wife was a mulatto." In his first confession, he had stated, that this information was communicated to him, as well in letters from Frankfort, as by Darby and another man who visited his house; and this, he stated, was the beginning of his malice against Col. Sharp. That he did receive such information from Frankfort, is confirmed by too much evidence to admit of a doubt, and when it is considered that he had no previous malice against Col. Sharp, and that his whole tale in that respect is wholly unfounded, I do believe most firmly, that this representation communicated to him after the new Court of Appeals was organized and he was talked of as a

candidate in 1825, was one of the means used to excite Beauchamp to attack, if not murder, my brother.

Nothing can exceed the vanity exhibited by this wretch in speaking of the plan of the murder and the precautions taken to avoid detection. He says, he had great apprehensions in coming to Frankfort to kill Col. Sharp, as he was sure Governor Desha would not pardon him, because the Colonel was the leader of his party. But he contrived a plan to make these circumstances operate to his advantage, by committing the murder at such a time as to cast suspicion upon the old Court party. He says, he first determined to kill him the second day of the election, but was prevented by some accident which he does not explain. Then he fixed on the Sunday night preceding the commencement of the session of the Legislature, with the same motive. After the murder, he says "things took the precise turn I had foreseen"; the new Court party pronounced the murder a political one; the family of Col. Sharp were flattered with the idea and were willing that he should escape if this fact could be established, and therefore affected not to believe him guilty, although we knew better. For this falsehood, Beauchamp is indebted to Darby's publications. To the whole tissue, there is one conclusive answer: If we had been desirous of making it out purely a political murder, there was no man on whom we could fix, as having struck the fatal blow, with more plausibility than Beauchamp himself; for there was none more attached to that party or more desperate in character. We could not believe any man the murderer unless we could perceive that he had some motive, and not knowing that Beauchamp had any, we could not at first suspect him. But the evidence thickened on him to such a degree, that we became convinced of his guilt, although his motives to this day are somewhat mysterious. Every known motive which is alleged, seems to have been intrinsically insufficient. That one man should travel one hundred and sixty miles to murder another upon mere rumor, whom he had not seen for two years and with whom he never had an angry word, without asking an explanation or demanding satisfaction, is almost incredible, unless indeed the rumor was used merely to excite the assassin's feelings, that, impelled by other strong inducements, he might strike with a more willing and determined hand. But I doubt not that all these wise plannings of Beauchamp's are mere afterthoughts, invented to impress on the world a high opinion of his cunning. He was, in truth, under a pledge never to let Col. Sharp take his seat in the Legislature. He told Darby so, as Darby informed Capt. Charles P. Bacon and others. His promise was known to men in Frankfort, who repeated it before and after the election. He deferred it to the latest possible day; but was finally true to his promise, and Col. Sharp never did take his seat in the Legislature.

It is unnecessary to review Beauchamp's detail of the manner in which he committed the murder and the circumstances which followed, with the exception of some points which prove the falsehood of his production. Although he acknowledges his guilt, he charges every material witness against him with perjury. Joel Scott, as honest a man as lives, whom no person, who knows him, will disbelieve in the slightest particular, he charges with open perjury and downright trick to produce his conviction. Instead of going out late in the night, as Mr. Scott states, he says he went out before the family were gone to bed. Now, he was in his chamber when the family got up in the morning. Before he goes to bed each night, Mr. Joel Scott bolts his door on the inside. If Beauchamp had gone out before the family went to bed, he would have been bolted out and could not have got in without alarming them. Nobody got up in the night to let him in, and therefore he must have gone out after the family went to bed, unbolting the door himself, and it stood unbolted until his return. He says, he left the handkerchief on the bed at Mr. Scott's, and charges Mr. Scott with cutting off the corner, making the holes through it, putting the blood on it and dropping it at Col. Sharp's door, to implicate him! Wholly incredible as this charge is, it is yet proved false by the evidence given on the trial, showing that it was originally found at the door of the room in which Col. Sharp was murdered, where, in his first confession he said he had lost it. But his most singular falsehood, which would seem almost intended to throw discredit on his whole book, relates to the knife. The knife had been found precisely where he said, in his first confession, he had hid it; he had minutely and accurately described it without seeing it; and he had even been to the spot where he had hid it and pointed to within six inches of where it had been found. There could not remain a doubt, that on this point, he had told the truth in his first confession to his uncle; yet, in his printed confession, without the least explanation, he says he hid the knife down "*near the river bank.*" I could detect many other falsehoods in this book, were it at all necessary. But the people in Frankfort and its vicinity, knew, the moment they saw it, that it was a tissue of bungling fabrications and downright falsehoods from beginning to end. I shall not review it further than to show, that it is made up, in many of its parts, from Darby's previous publications, and that he has availed himself freely of that man's labors in this his last act of malice and vengeance.

CHAPTER XI.

Darby's publications and Beauchamp's Confession.

I SHALL now enter into a brief comparison of Darby's publications and Beauchamp's Confession, the result of which must satisfy the reader, that these two men had a perfect understanding between them as to the causes of Col. Sharp's murder, or that Beauchamp is indebted to Darby for the whole plan, most of the ideas and many of the expressions used in that confession.

Scarcely was Col. Sharp dead in November 1825 and Beauchamp suspected, when Darby began to circulate a report that Col. Sharp had procured the certificate of the midwife who delivered Ann Cook of her illegitimate child, proving that it was a mulatto, and he declared that some of Col. Sharp's family told him so. As late as the 17th of February 1826, as he stated in his publication of that date, he had not found one man or woman of the old Court party who had heard of it before the election. Yet, in that publication he makes the procuring of that certificate and the rumor thereupon circulated, the cause of the murder.

"And we believe with the editor of the Argus, (says he,) that Col. Sharp would now have been living, had he not been a candidate last year. Without intending it, the Argus editor has here expressed the true cause of Col. Sharp's death. It was occasioned, we have but little doubt, by his being a candidate, and not by his being *elected*. We believe that the previous hostile feelings of his assassin would have slept on as they had done, but for the conversations and acts done to promote his election. But for the statements made, or certificates procured, that the wife of Beauchamp was of a notoriously bad and infamous character, and the mother of a *mulatto* child, Col. Sharp would now have been living. And in our opinion, these statements would not have been made, nor these certificates been procured, or stated to have been procured, if he had "not been a candidate for the Legislature."

This was *four months* before Beauchamp made his confession and long before his trial. How could Darby *then* have known any thing of Beauchamp's "*previous hostile feelings*"? How could he have known, that Beauchamp had heard any rumor of this story about certificates and a black child, which he said was wholly unknown to the old Court party before the election, and I have proved was wholly unknown to the new? If Beauchamp had "*previous hostile feelings*," and had heard the rumor, how did Darby know it, long before his conviction and confession? Certain it is, that his story on this point, corresponds precisely with Beauchamp's, as told in his printed confession. He says, "he had previous hostile feelings," from the year 1820 or 1821, and he

agrees precisely with Darby as to the cause which excited them in 1825.

"Some little time before the election, (says he, page 23-4,) I received a letter from a gentleman, who at that time lived in the whole world, informing me of the reports and insinuations which Col. Sharp and his family had circulated, that the child of my wife was a mulatto."—"And he wrote me that the Sharps had set afloat insinuations, that the child of Miss Cook was a mulatto, in order to do away the charge against Col. Sharp for seduction." "For he said, when he heard this report once or twice, he went to Col. Sharp and asked him if it were a fact, that the child was a negro child, and Col. Sharp told him it was, and that he had a certificate from the midwife to prove that fact."

How precisely these men agree! Darby, before he hears Beauchamp's tale, is able to account for the murder, but does not tell us how this news got to Beauchamp, nor how he knew that it reached him! But Beauchamp explains this matter without telling us who informed him. Now, if the tale was true, must not Darby have known all about it? If it was not true, has not Beauchamp predicated his confession on Darby's publication?

Darby first labored to prove, that Mrs. Sharp had such a certificate; but it being shown that the midwife never had given one, he abandoned that ground and then endeavored to prove that she and others of Col. Sharp's family, had said they had.

In his publication of April 15th he says, the friends of Col. Sharp, to secure his election, studiously circulated a report that "he had procured a certificate from the midwife, proving that the child of which it was said he was the father, was a mulatto," and that Mrs. Sharp told a gentleman, (from whom he was unable to procure a statement,) that "she then had in her possession, a certificate of the midwife, &c. showing that the child was a mulatto." In his publication of April the 29th, he says, "upon the evidence I have submitted to the public, I leave it to the world to say, whether these new and aggravated calumnies, inculcated and told by Mrs. Sharp, Doct. Sharp and Doct. Scott, to facilitate and promote Col. Sharp's election, and the use made of them by his friends, were not the cause of his murder," &c.

Darby maintains this idea throughout his publications, and repeatedly urges, that it was this certificate or this story, carried to the ears of Beauchamp, which excited him to the murder. Beauchamp reiterates the same idea throughout his confession. Page 99th, he says, "at a time before my marriage, when father, brothers and friends, by a most strange succession of calamities, had been swept into the grave, and had left her almost without one soul on earth, save her dear old mother, to whom she could look for consolation or comfort, in her sorrow and immolation, then did Col. Sharp have the baseness to insinuate that his own child was

a negro's child, and that the unfortunate woman, whom he knew he had seduced from the path of virtue, had been the mother of a negro's child. Nay, he actually forged a certificate to prove that to be a fact. This, however, he only done to show to his wife, to silence her eternal clash about the matter. For he never intended, nor ever would, if he could have avoided it, have dared to let it be known that he had a certificate of that kind, for fear of his forgery being detected. But when at length Col. Sharp ventured, after several years, to again aspire to regain his long lost popularity, and this dishonor of Miss Cook's seduction, was held in terror over him, his wife could not help letting out the secret of this certificate; for all this time she fully believed Col. Sharp had actually obtained such a one."—"Doct Sharp, Mrs. Sharp and old Mrs. Scott may console themselves with the reflection, that their slanderous tongues had some slight tendency to accelerate the death of one whom they all literally worshipped as a God," &c. Beauchamp's story is Darby's story a little amplified and improved. If either was based on facts, it is notorious that Darby knew the facts just as well as Beauchamp did. As Darby's publications were made long before Beauchamp's confession, how did he obtain a knowledge of these facts, except from Beauchamp before the murder? But so far as relates to the certificates and the circulation of the story of the black child, the statements of both are utterly false, which Darby must have known, but Beauchamp might not. It is more than possible, that Beauchamp was told that Col. Sharp had such a certificate and was circulating such a report, and from Darby's knowledge of the matter, as disclosed in his publications, it is more than possible he well knew who had given this information.

Not only did Darby and Beauchamp agree as to the immediate cause of the murder; but there is, in their publications, an entire correspondence as to the imputed guilt of Col. Sharp. They both alike declare that he "*merited death*," and differ only as to the manner in which he ought to have been *murdered*!

In his publication of April the 29th, Darby says: "In short, whether Col. Sharp was not in part the foundation of these new and aggravated slanders in the many statements made by him to his friends, and in particular the statement made to Mr. Sanders and Mr. Haggin, which Mrs. Sharp and Doct. Sharp now say in their publication is not true. And whether he did not, to promote his election, circulate these tales of slander, which when heard by Beauchamp, roused his ancient hate, and excited the feelings which pointed to his breast the dagger of his assassin. And if Col. Sharp was the origin of these new invented and grossly aggravated calumnies, on the conduct and character of Mrs. Beauchamp, (and from the evidence of Mr. Sanders and the statements of Mrs. Sharp and Doct. Sharp, contradicting what Col. Sharp

then said, there is too much reason to believe he was,) and if to promote his views of aggrandizement and ambition, he used the situation and character of Mrs. Beauchamp, as a means and an instrument to effect his ends, (and there is too much reason to believe he did,) and Jereboam O. Beauchamp, on becoming acquainted with the facts, instead of prowling after him in the dark, and insidiously reaching him, by a claim to his friendship and an appeal to his hospitality, had, in the character of a proud, bold and magnanimous man, put him to death in the street in open day, and rested for his justification on the justice and feelings of mankind, the world would never have convicted him of murder. If he dies for the deed, under all the circumstances of his case, he will die, not so much for the *death* of Col. Sharp, as for the manner of doing it! He will die, because, instead of being a proud, bold and magnanimous man, he is a mean, cowardly, prowling and insidious wretch! whose example of avenging such wrongs, renders society unsafe and insecure. The wrong to Beauchamp and wife merited death to all who were engaged in it. But when men outrage the laws in the punishment of such acts, to be supported in it, they must at least keep the chivalrous feelings of mankind on their side."

Here is an entire vindication of the murder of Col. Sharp, and an invitation to some desperate friend of Mrs. Beauchamp to inflict a like "*merited*" punishment on Mrs. Sharp, myself, the whole family and the friends of Col. Sharp, whom he has endeavored to convict of this 'wrong to Beauchamp and wife'! He had not then a particle of proof, that Col. Sharp had ever lisped to mortal man, that the child of Ann Cook was a negro, and he knew, that he had never procured a certificate to prove it; yet, it was necessary that Beauchamp should be kept in the delusion which had been spread around him in the spring or summer of 1825. Hence, he asserts what he knew to be false, and on that assertion predicates a justification of Beauchamp. As to the deserts of Col. Sharp, he pretends to agree with the murderer, who thus speaks in his confession:

Page the 26th, "I therefore, after the most mature deliberation, resolved, if I should have to kill Col. Sharp, in Frankfort, to do it secretly: The world must now say as it will of this determination. It is true, I regretted to have to take this course; but it was, (Desha being Governor and Sharp his fugleman,) the only way which presented the possibility of my killing Col. Sharp in Frankfort without certainly losing my own life for it. And although I never regarded death much, yet I did not feel that I was bound to observe any law, which regulates the reciprocal conduct of men of honor, in my conduct towards Col. Sharp, or to risque my own life by shooting him publicly, any more than I would have felt bound to go publicly into an Indian town and shoot down

the savage who had secretly crept to my house and murdered my defenceless children. For I had just as much reason to expect Desha would listen to the dictates of justice, were I to kill his chief, for worse than murdering my wife, as I would to expect justice from infuriated savages, if I had shot their chief for taking the life of my children."

Extracts might be multiplied, showing how perfectly Beauchamp agreed with Darby in the sentiment that Col. Sharp '*merited death*,' but the former, bold as he was, dared not to kill him publicly, because he feared that Governor Desha had not the "*chivalrous feelings*" to pardon him!

Darby says, Col. Sharp ought to have been murdered; but that it should have been done *in open day in the street*. Beauchamp says, he ought to have been murdered; but that it ought to have been done *secretly in the dark*. *They agree in the justice of the murder*; but differ as to the time or manner in which it ought to have been committed. In this particular, Beauchamp has followed Darby's idea, except so far as he thought it necessary to deviate for the purpose of excusing himself for murdering his victim in the dark.

As to the motives which influenced Mrs. Sharp, myself and our friends in the course pursued by us after the murder, Beauchamp has copied Darby's ideas precisely. In his publication of April the 15th, Darby says: "They [the family of Col. Sharp] wanted to gratify their pride, by attributing his death to *politics*, rather than detraction and adultery! And I have no doubt, from the conduct exhibited at one period of this transaction, by Doct. Sharp and Doct. Scott and the whole family, that they would rather the murderer of their husband, brother and friend, should escape the punishment of the law, than not, if they could only infuse a belief that Sharp fell a victim to the political struggles of his country. Their feelings of pride and vanity were caught with the idea inculcated from the Argus and the faction, and they had neither virtue nor fortitude to withstand the temptation."

See how completely Beauchamp adopts these ideas in his confession!

Page 56, he says: "Scarcely was Sharp buried, ere Kendall [Editor of the Argus] sounded the alarm throughout the State, that it was politics which had caused the murder; and charged it plainly enough upon Sharp's political opponents about Frankfort. This caught the vanity of Doctor Sharp and Mrs. Sharp, to whose feelings it was much more grateful for the world to say Col. Sharp, whom they worshipped, had fallen a martyr in his country's cause, and that he had been murdered for fear of his matchless abilities, than to say he deserved his doom, and fell by the hand of private revenge, for a base seduction, and adultery and slander."

The following passages are equally striking. In the same publication Darby says:

"Now, however, when facts and circumstances crowd upon them and public opinion has settled the murder upon Beauchamp, they join in that opinion. But still, to keep alive the wretched delusion, that Sharp fell a victim to political causes, while they recognize Beauchamp as the real murderer, they have entered into a thousand absurdities, contradicted their own statements and acts, and told numerous and unexampled falsehoods, to excite a belief that I am an accomplice."

In his confession, page 58, Beauchamp says: "Finding an irresistible prepossession in the public mind to believe me guilty, upon the bare circumstance of Sharp's base conduct towards my wife, they found omnipotent truth would shine out, and they never could make the world believe but what I killed him. For neither the Sharps nor the leaders of the new Court faction, ever did really doubt, for a moment, but what I was guilty. Therefore, they lashed me and the old Court party together, which, as I was an old Court man, took for a time, and in fact convicted me. This union of the old Court party and me, the new Court party effected, by connecting me with one Patrick H. Darby, who had edited an old Court paper in Frankfort, called the Constitutional Advocate."

So we have Darby agreeing precisely with Beauchamp as to the *motive* of the murder, as to its *justice*, and as to the course pursued by Mrs. Sharp, myself and our friends, after that melancholy event. Or rather, Darby fabricated a tale to extricate himself, and Beauchamp has made its falsehoods the basis of his confession.

In some instances he has copied not only Darby's sentiments, but almost his very words. Darby in his publication of May the 27th, says:

"The Argus, since the death of Col. Sharp, and the Patriot, since its commencement, have *howled in piteous tones* over his death and his grave, until Jereboam O. Beauchamp is convicted of his murder," &c.

Beauchamp, page 56, says: "Amos Kendall, Editor of the Argus and oracle of the new Court faction, had began already to *howl piteously* over Sharp as a martyr in his country's service," &c.

In his publication of February the 17th, Darby said, "we have been informed, that when Doct. Sharp first entered the room and saw his brother dead, in the presence of Mr. Bass, he exclaimed, Beauchamp is the villain that has murdered my brother."

Beauchamp says, page 36, "Before I thought they could possibly have gotten word to the Doctor, he came running in. So soon as he entered the room he exclaimed, great God, Beauchamp has done this; I always expected it."

Every word of this is proved to be false, by Mr. Bass, who was present and referred to by Mr. Darby; but he was able to procure some hearsay testimony, as false as the first assertion, tending to prove its truth, and Beauchamp, finding it in Darby's publication, pretends that he had listened in the alley, until I had been sent for to the other side of town and had got home, when he heard this exclamation!

Equally ready was he to copy from Darby as well his falsehood as any thing which he thought might tend to disgrace me. Darby, in his publication of April 29th, said, "that Mr. Lucas told him, Doctor Sharp wanted energy; that he was crying about the country like a fool and afraid of being killed himself."

Beauchamp, page 101, says, "Doctor Sharp may spend his brother's estate, going, as his great friend Squire Lucas said of him, "crying about the country like a fool and afraid of being killed himself," in the endeavor to give colour to this base falsehood."

Here the wretch copies the *very words* of Mr. Darby, proving that *he had his publications before him when he wrote his confession*; and against us, he is willing to make use of the fabrications of a man whom he has conclusively shown to be guilty of perjury. I could multiply analogous passages from Darby's publications and Beauchamp's confession. I could show the same abuse of the Governor, of Col. Sharp, and of the new Court party; the same chain of assertion and argument; the same opinions; the same feelings; the same character. But enough has been given to satisfy the reader, that Darby must have had beforehand, a perfect knowledge of what Beauchamp's confession *would be*, or the confession itself is predicated on Darby's publications. If Darby knew what Beauchamp's confession would be, then he had seen Beauchamp before the murder, and perfectly knew the motives and feelings by which he was actuated. If he had no such knowledge, then Beauchamp has seized on his assertions and predicated thereon a tale which he believed would revenge himself upon the family of Col. Sharp, the Governor and the new Court party, and conciliate to his memory the old Court party, upon the word of one of whom, he says he "*surrendered up his life*"! That a large portion of Darby's publications, as well as their second edition improved by Beauchamp, is entirely false, I not only know of my own knowledge, but have proved in the course of this publication. But in relation to Beauchamp's confession, I have his own declaration to the guard, just before he went to the gallows, *acknowledging it to be a tissue of falsehoods*. The following is the evidence of Mr. Edrington to that point:

"On the morning of the day that Beauchamp was hanged, I asked him what he intended to do with all that he had written? He told me that he had given all to his father. I then asked him, if

his father was going to have it printed? He told me, that he had told his father, that the first six quires he had written was not true; but there was about thirty pages he had written last, of which I had seen a part, that he might have printed if he pleased. I have read the book that was published by Gervas I. Hammond, as purporting to be Beauchamp's confession; but *I know* that part of his last writing is not in that book, and have good reason to believe that there is very little of what he said contained the truth printed, except his letters and hers and the poetry."

In addition to the evidence afforded by the book itself and the facts I have exhibited, fixing its character, here is the express declaration of Beauchamp himself, just before he went to the gallows, that his confession was false. But this is not the worst of it. *He told his father that it was false*, except a few pages, and those pages *are suppressed*, while the falsehood is given to the world. I do not wish to wound the feelings of an afflicted old man; but I must say, that he has committed a great wrong upon the memory of Col. Sharp, upon the feelings of his relations and friends, and upon society itself, by suffering to be published, as the dying confession of his son, a tissue of slanders upon the dead and the living, which he was told and knew to be wholly groundless and false. He has committed an offence scarcely less reprehensible, by suffering to be suppressed the only portion of the confession which his son said was true. I know that old Mr. Beauchamp did not get it printed himself; but with his knowledge of the matter, he ought never to have let it go out of his own hands.

Rumor says, and I believe the fact to be, that he delivered the manuscript into the hands of his son-in-law, Hammond, who submitted it to at least two Lawyers, who were zealous old Court partizans, in the Green river country. Finding that it contained matter which might operate injuriously to their opponents in politics, although they knew most of it to be false, they advised its publication. But they charged Hammond not to let the Editors of the Argus or any printer of the new Court party print this work, or even see it before it was printed. With this injunction, as I learn that Hammond himself said, he came to Frankfort to consult about printing it. What was done here I know not; but he finally got it printed in Bloomfield. But not only was the truth withheld and the falsehood put into the hands of the printer, but this tissue of lies was altered and parts expunged. The printer himself says, in a certificate at the end of the book, "*some hard expressions against individuals were softened or expunged.*" False as it is, it is not therefore *Beauchamp's Confession*; but its language is such as it has been thought proper to put into his mouth after his death!

Such are the means which have been used to blacken the memory, of Col. Sharp and destroy his surviving family and friends.

Beauchamp's tale, made almost entirely out of Darby's vindictive publications, though acknowledged to be false by the murderer himself, just as he was about to step into eternity, is given to the world upon the advice of old Court Lawyers, and he is not permitted to tell even his admitted lies in his own language, lest, perchance, their very extravagance should lead to a detection! The dead and the living, almost every witness in the cause, and the whole political party to which those lawyers behind the scenes are opposed, are thus traduced and libelled in the name of a dead man, in relation to whom the injured party can receive neither remedy nor revenge! Thus has this miserable wretch been found to be an useful tool, both living and dead, and while some secretly exult in the impunity with which they stimulated him to the dreadful deed, others feel a satisfaction equally malignant, in the use they were enabled to make of him, even after his death, in prosecuting men and measures which they hated.

CHAPTER XII.

Reasons why Beauchamp acquitted Darby—Correction and recapitulation of the evidence, tending to prove Darby's guilt.

BEAUCHAMP'S acquittal of Darby in relation to any participation in the murder of Col. Sharp, has made a strong impression upon the country, and induced many to think that he is innocent. But to convince me of that fact, in the face of all the evidence now known to exist tending to prove his participation, directly or indirectly, will require something stronger than the assertions of a man who has made up a dying confession out of Darby's publications and afterwards admitted it to be wholly false. I perceive a sufficient motive for the acquittal of Darby, without supposing him innocent. Beauchamp was a violent old Court partizan, and as is proved by a number of certificates and by his confession, had the same bitter feelings towards Col. Sharp, the Governor and the whole new Court party, that were entertained by the most vindictive of his party.

He was also revengeful for every real or supposed personal injury, whether merited or not, as is proved by his abuse of Mrs. Sharp and her family, as well as every witness who testified against him on his trial.

He had two feelings to gratify—*political and personal hatred*. For a short period, the love of life and the hope of a pardon, overcame these feelings, and he made a confession which implicated

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Darby and a few others of the old Court party in the murder. But in a little time, the hope of operating on the Governor and his friends, by such means, entirely failed. The principal lawyers of the old Court party, who had engaged in prosecuting him, had declined doing so. One of them had volunteered to save his wife from trial, although they knew her to be as guilty as he was, and through the agency of men of that party she was set at liberty. Some of them vindicated her character, palliated his crime, declared that Col. Sharp deserved death, and even justified his murder in all but the manner of committing it! Among that party, originated the petitions for his pardon; and after he had confessed the crime, some of them expressed hopes that he might escape. He was fed by them with cake, wines and all manner of delicacies, while in jail, and after he had confessed the murder, and from a hand directed by the same influence, he received a file with which he severed his chains. All the sympathy he received, came from that party, and with them were all his feelings.

By implicating Darby, he had made the murder, in some degree, political, and cast a stigma upon his own party and friends. He perceived how he could gratify both his kind and malignant feelings. The acquittal of Darby would at once acquit his party; but he hated Darby for his treachery as much as he loved his party for their kindness. While he acquitted him of the charge of participating in the murder, for the sake of his party, he revenged himself on him, personally, by declaring him guilty of perjury, which every body already believed. He accomplished another object. The newspapers had informed him, that Mrs. Sharp, her family and friends, suspected Darby of being his accomplice, and that the latter had already commenced a suit against them for a libel. For our politics, as well as the rigor with which we prosecuted him to conviction, he hated us worse than he did Darby. By granting him an acquittal, he would create in the community an impression that he was innocent, and thus enable him to harrass and destroy us. After having revenged himself on Darby, by covering him with charges of perjury, he was willing to use him as an instrument of vengeance against us. To gratify his malignity against us and the new Court party, the more effectually, he takes up Darby's falsehoods and weaves them into his confession. Every man who has read that book, must perceive the difference of his feelings towards the new Court party, who kept at a cold distance, viewing him with the horror which his crime naturally inspired, and the old Court party, who were loading him with favors and almost with eulogies. While abusing Governor Desha, he even dares to insinuate, that had Tompkins been Governor he could have committed the crime in open day with entire impunity! By acquitting Darby of being an accomplice, and charging him with perjury, he gratified, at the same time, his

political and personal hate, while he exonerated his own party from suspicion. But I cannot consider this acquittal as proof of Darby's innocence, especially when I sum up the evidence against him, which I shall now recapitulate and present to the reader in a condensed form.

Early in the year 1825, Darby had become a warm and loud political partizan. Col. Sharp had already become very obnoxious to Darby's party, and was talked of as a candidate for the Legislature.

The latter part of May, Darby attended the sale of lots at Brandenburg, a town in Meade county, on the Ohio river. He thence returned to Frankfort, and about the last of May, as appears by his evidence on Beauchamp's trial, he had a conversation with Col. Sharp in the presence of Mr. Crittenden and Doct. Brown, in which my brother said, it was "not his interest or inclination to become a candidate."

After that conversation, he went down to Hardin county, to attend the June term of the Circuit Court, and while there, as he says in his evidence, he heard that Col. Sharp was a candidate, and spoke harshly of it.

He afterwards came home and took an active part in electioneering and making speeches against him.

He became the editor of a newspaper and indulged freely in the abuse so prevalent in his party against Col. Sharp's motives and character. The day preceding the murder, he called on Col. Sharp and inquired where some of the inmates of the family lay, by which he obtained information very necessary for the assassin to direct him in finding the room occupied by his victim. Beauchamp was seen going towards Darby's office, late in the night. It is notorious, that some person showed Beauchamp the way to Col. Sharp's house and bed-room. Beauchamp says such was the fact. Two persons were seen in front of his house a short time before the murder; and two were heard to run by Mr. Bibb's directly after.

Darby was silent as to his ever having seen Beauchamp or heard him threaten Col. Sharp's life, until after Beauchamp had been sent for and there was no doubt he would be brought back as a prisoner. He then stated, that he had been introduced to Beauchamp by William Allen, Esq. at the sale of lots in Brandenburg, the preceding May; that Beauchamp asked him who were candidates in Franklin county; that he replied Mr. Crittenden was out and he expected Col. Sharp would be; that Beauchamp fell to abusing Col. Sharp, and said, if *he were elected, he should never take his seat in the Legislature*; that Mr. Allen told him Beauchamp was a desperate man and was very likely to execute his threat. This statement has been made by Capt. Charles P. Bacon on oath, and differs essentially from the Brandenburg story, as herein before

detailed. I was misinformed as to Darby's statement, until Capt. Bacon was sworn in the Woodford Court.

When Beauchamp was brought to South Frankfort, Darby called to see him, but did not seem to recognize him, and it appeared that Beauchamp was elsewhere at the time of the sale of lots in Brandenburg.

Immediately after this interview, Darby told Mr. Rowan, as the latter has lately assured me, that Mr. Allen had told him at the Hardin Circuit Court, in June 1825, that if *Col. Sharp were elected, Beauchamp would never let him take his seat in the Legislature.*

In his evidence upon Beauchamp's trial, he said that Thomas Carrol had told him at that Court, that if *Sharp was elected, Beauchamp would never let him take his seat in the Legislature.*

If all he said was true, Darby heard as many as *three times*, as early as May or June 1825, and once from Beauchamp himself, that if Col. Sharp should be elected at the succeeding election, he was never to be suffered to take his seat in the Legislature, and he was even told, *that Beauchamp was very likely to execute his threat.*

Soon after Beauchamp was brought back, it was understood, that Benjamin Hardin, Esq. had engaged to aid in the prosecution. Darby went to him, and *in confidence*, told him, that in 1824 or 1825, he had been at Beauchamp's house, in pursuance of a request of Beauchamp himself; that Beauchamp had consulted him upon commencing a suit against Col. Sharp for money, negroes and lands, which had been promised on account of injuries done to his wife, and on being told he could not recover, swore he would come and shoot Col. Sharp in the street.

No sooner did he learn that I had been informed of the threats he had heard, than he *forgot where the conversation was*, but said he was trying to recollect.

Before the examining Court, or before the Grand Jury, or both, he located the conversation in Duncan's lane, in Simpson county, alleging that he was riding by Duncan's house and some person called to him, when Beauchamp walked out and he got down from his horse and they walked to the well together.

On the final trial, he swore that it was at Duncan's well, where he had got down to drink, when Beauchamp came riding up on a small horse, with homespun clothes on.

No sooner was Beauchamp suspected and apprehended, than Darby began to circulate a story on the pretended authority of Dr. Scott or myself, that Col. Sharp, to secure his election, had got a certificate and circulated a report, that the child of which Ann Cook, afterwards Mrs. Beauchamp, had charged him with being the father, was a mulatto; and finally he asserted boldly, that it was this fact communicated to Beauchamp which induced him to commit the murder. This was long before any thing had been heard from Mr. or Mrs. Beauchamp on this subject.

Subsequently, before Beauchamp's trial, Mrs. Beauchamp told Miss Dowell, in Simpson county, that Darby had been at their house; and afterwards Beauchamp and his wife, in jail, in Frankfort, said the same thing, and that from Darby himself, as well as from letters, they were informed that Col. Sharp had such a certificate and was circulating such a report, thereby confirming Darby's statement to Hardin, that he had been at their house, and his statement to the public, that this information had reached Beauchamp and excited him against Col. Sharp.

Darby does, in his publications, justify the murder in all but the manner of committing it; and surely he who would justify a murder after it is committed, would not be backward to advise it beforehand.

Mrs. Connell states, that on the Saturday night before the election in 1825, she heard a man say to two or three persons with whom he was in violent conversation under her window, that if *Col. Sharp were elected, Beauchamp would never let him take his seat in the Legislature*, the very sentiment which Darby told Bacon Beauchamp uttered to him!—and Mrs. Connell is confident the person whom she heard, was no other than Mr. Darby himself! Indeed, would he not be just as likely to convey Beauchamp's threat to his political friends *before the election*, as to Capt. Bacon *after the murder*!

After the election, in walking the streets one night, General George Baltzell again heard the same fatal sentence, that *Col. Sharp would never live to take his seat in the Legislature*.

From these facts, I think Darby may be tracked. I submit it to the world, whether the following is not the true history of his course. While in Hardin county, in June 1825, he heard that Col. Sharp was a candidate. With his characteristic disposition to be foremost in every thing, he mounts his horse and rides to Beauchamp's for the purpose of procuring the means of destroying the character and preventing the election of Col. Sharp. He had some where picked up the story of the black child, and to exasperate Beauchamp, told him that Col. Sharp had not only sold himself to the new Court faction, but to ward off the charge of seduction in relation to his wife, had got a certificate and was circulating a rumor, that the child was a mulatto, for which, as he says in one of his publications, he '*merited death*'! Beauchamp is thus enraged, rejects all propositions for an attack on Col. Sharp, on account of his wife, in newspapers and handbills, declares that he will take his life, and that if *elected he shall never take his seat in the Legislature*. Beauchamp immediately writes to Col. Sharp the forged letter of the 27th of June, in the name of Zebulon X. Yantis, to ascertain when he can have a fair opportunity to execute his murderous intention. Darby returns home and tells some of his political friends, that if Col. Sharp is elected,

Beauchamp will never let him take his seat in the Legislature. He is elected; the session approaches; to-morrow he is to take his seat; but the fell assassin, true to his word, calls him from the arms of an affectionate wife and strikes him dead! Let who can, meditate on these facts and pronounce Darby innocent.

The falsehoods and contradictions of this man are the natural effects of guilt and fear. Why did he tell Bacon he had seen Beauchamp at Brandenburg? He knew if he told him he had been at Beauchamp's house, the natural inquiry would be, *what business had you there?* But he thought he could trust Mr. Hardin, then a friend and leader of his party, with this secret, and he tells him *confidentially*. As soon as he found it was disclosed to me, he had forgot where the conversation was, and first said and then swore, that he never was at Beauchamp's house at all! He said, he had mistaken Jackman's house for Beauchamp's, Jackman's wife for Beauchamp's, and Jackman himself for Beauchamp. Unluckily for him, Mrs. Jackman was not at all like Mrs. Beauchamp, and Jackman's house was not built in 1824, when he said this mistake occurred! But in June 1825, Jackman's house was new, having been built in the latter part of the preceding winter, and Darby doubtless observed it when he went to Beauchamp's. But even then, Jackman's wife was not like Beauchamp's wife, as Darby described her to Hardin, and his attempt at explanation, only proves, that his visit to Beauchamp was in 1825, after Jackman's house was built, and not in 1824, as he pretended.

It is remarkable also, that his tale was entirely changed as to the cause of the murder. To Bacon he said, that the conversation between him and Beauchamp, was about politics or about the candidates in Franklin county. It was only when he was told that it was expected Col. Sharp would be a candidate, that Beauchamp began to threaten, and then he said, if he was elected he should never take his seat in the Legislature. There was nothing said of land, negroes or money, as the ground of the threat. The idea that the murder had sprung from politics, had then just taken wind; but had not made much noise. This tale of Darby to Bacon, the *first he told*, would have proved the murder to be clearly a *political one*. The time too, at which he had heard the threat, May or June 1825, when party rage had assumed an aspect the most ferocious, would have rendered a conversation of this kind, between two such men as Darby and Beauchamp, doubly suspicious. He, therefore, to take it out of politics, both in time and matter, thrusts back the threat into the year 1824, and fabricates the tale that Beauchamp was consulting him about a suit for land, negroes and money, a tale which never reached another mortal ear, and threatened Col. Sharp because he could not recover. He well knew the threat was made in a *political conversation*, and that the murder had in it more of *politics* than of

vengeance; but it was necessary for him to save himself and his associates. Scarcely had he told this story to Bacon, a firm old Court man, when he comes out with the most horrible denunciations against the Editors of the Argus and all who dared to insinuate that politics might be mingled with the motives of the murderer, when he knew their suspicions were well founded, because he had conversed with Beauchamp on the subject! Never was there a man who lied and swore so much for the leaders of his party, and never was there a notorious villain who had so many apologists and supporters among men called respectable. Not a man dare undertake to vindicate his *truth*, whether on oath or not; many believe him an accomplice in murder; and yet he is received into some decent society, and is able to make as formidable an array of counsel in our courts of justice, to rob of their money, those whom he has robbed of that which is much dearer, as in better times would have voluntarily appeared in defence of the afflicted widow and unprotected orphans!

I will here add a few words relative to Darby's conduct towards Mrs. Sharp and myself. Darby's visit on the day preceding the murder, his conduct and character, induced Mrs. Sharp to think from that morning, that Darby was an accomplice in the crime; but she was induced by the entreaties of her friends to be silent. His contradictions and falsehoods strengthened her convictions and induced many others to coincide with her in opinion. The suspicions entertained reached Darby's ears in January 1826; but not a word had been said of them in the newspapers. In his own paper of the 17th of February succeeding, Darby came out with a long attack on Mrs. Sharp, myself, Doct. Scott and the friends of the family, coupling the whole with the new Court party, and interweaving enough of politics to catch the ear of his own party. In this piece, he charges Mrs. Sharp and her family with falsehood and *concealing evidence* for the purpose of giving a wrong direction to public opinion, by making the world believe that Col. Sharp had fallen a victim to politics, rather than private vengeance. These charges, as foul as they were false, added poignancy to Mrs. Sharp's affliction, and determined her, without consulting mortal man, to throw herself for protection, against this assassin of character, upon the justice of her country, as she had for the punishment of the active assassin upon that country's Courts. She knew the falsehood of Darby's tale, and with that knowledge, she could not but view it as an attempt to shield himself from merited punishment, by forestalling public opinion in relation to the true causes of the murder. In the simplicity of her sense of right and justice, she thought the whole world, on knowing what she did, would rise up with one accord to protect her from the persecution of her husband's murderers, and inflict on them merited punishment. This was the source and cause of her publication against Mr. Darby.

In that paper, she took a special care to foreclose the idea that she attributed that crime to the party opposed to her husband. She only maintained, that some of the worst of that party, from political and other motives, had planned and executed the deed. The following is the forcible language in which she disavows all such intentions:

"Heaven knows, my bosom entertains no political animosities. Many of those who differed with my husband in political opinions, were his warmest personal friends, and feel the deepest sorrow at his loss. The greatest number of my own relatives and friends, belong to the party which he opposed. Can it be believed, that it is my desire to identify all these individuals, the dearest friends of my husband and myself, with his slanderers and murderers? No, no; I feel that there are few, very few persons, in our country or any other, who could stain their hands in the blood of the innocent, the excellent, the highly gifted man, who was the victim of the most horrible passions. No; I do not impute his death to a party. But I can easily conceive how it is the interest of Darby to create the impression that I wish to implicate the whole party to which he belongs. It may be useful to him to enlist their feelings in *his* controversy, and by their powerful support, ward off the blow of justice which might otherwise fall with just vengeance on his own head."

After having given the grounds of her suspicions, in relation to Darby, she proceeds to say:

"I trust I have now been sufficiently explicit, to prevent my suspicions from being any longer attached to the whole of a respectable party. I wish to separate the guilty from the innocent, and deprive the vile slanderer of the support which he expects, by enlisting a powerful party in his favor."

Notwithstanding these positive declarations, that Mrs. Sharp did not charge the old Court party with this murder, and suspected only some of the worst men of that party, yet did Darby proclaim that it was charged upon that party, and in this assertion, notoriously as false as his contradictory statements about his interview with Beauchamp, did the leaders of his party sustain him. By their power and influence was he enabled to make his own cause a party question, and to procure a support, without which he must immediately sink into infamy, if he had not been punished for his crimes. Nay; multitudes of people, who never saw Mrs. Sharp's publication or the publications of her friends, but took up their opinions from Darby's paper or those of his fellow laborers, believe to this day, that in Mrs. Sharp's publication and in the articles in the Argus, the *whole old Court party* were charged with the murder of Col. Sharp, when the ground always taken was, that it was imputable to a few bad men of that party. Beauchamp was an old Court man as well as Darby. Who of that party felt

offended or wronged when Beauchamp was suspected? Why should they have been sensitive when Darby was suspected?

But I will not dwell on this point. Suffice it to say, that Darby had the cunning to make his cause, for the time, that of his party. A few of the leaders still cling to him, while the greater mass of that party have given him up. Not satisfied with their political triumph, a few men are now using this villain to destroy Mrs. Sharp, myself and some of our friends, because we dared to express our honest suspicions. If nobody had expressed their suspicions of Beauchamp, would he ever have been apprehended or punished? No man can deny, that the evidence against Darby is stronger than that against Beauchamp when he was committed for further trial. Nay; to my mind, it is as conclusive as was that against Beauchamp when he was sentenced to the gallows! Mrs. Sharp believed him guilty, but was silent. She saw him assail, not only the character of her beloved husband, but her own truth and integrity, and then it was that she spoke out. Can she be blamed by the just or the good? Am I or her friends censurable? *I know* we are not. On earth we may fail in obtaining that justice which is our due; but we know there is redress in *heaven*.

I hereto annex the statements of the jailer, John M'Intosh, and of the guards, William M'Intosh and Benjamin Edrington, which have been referred to in the foregoing pages, with some others which have reference to the subject.

JOHN M'INTOSH'S STATEMENT.

Being requested by Doctor Sharp, I, John M'Intosh, jailer of Franklin county, having had the custody of J. O. Beauchamp from the time he was brought a prisoner to Frankfort, until his execution for the murder of Col. Solomon P. Sharp, do affirm and say:

That I was present in the room with J. O. Beauchamp and wife, when the former first confessed the murder of Col. Sharp to his uncle, Jereboam Beauchamp, and that I heard him say, in that confession, that Patrick H. Darby was concerned with him in that murder.

That both Beauchamp and his wife often told me, that Darby was at their house twice, and once staid one night, and that in these visits, or one of them, the murder of Col. Sharp was concerted.

That they told me they had received two or three letters from Darby, and an anonymous letter enclosing a handbill, which purported to have been prepared by Col. Sharp, in which he vindicated himself from the charge of seduction, by publishing a cer-

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tificate that the child which Ann Cook, then Mrs. Beauchamp, had charged to him, was a mulatto; and that previous to the receipt of the handbill, he had no ill feelings against Col. Sharp.

That they told me they had concealed one of these letters in a bag of dried fruit, whence Mrs. Beauchamp took it out and burnt it, on the night of her husband's return from Frankfort.

That they told me other letters on this subject were concealed in a bed, and that on the evening Mrs. Beauchamp had been taken, she directed a servant to rip open the bed, take them out, and burn them.

That at all times and under all circumstances, when conversing on this subject, Beauchamp persisted in the declaration that he had received a letter or letters from Frankfort, stating that Col. Sharp had declared that the child was a mulatto, which had induced him to commit the murder; and on the way to the gallows, he told me he had, since receiving the letter, seen the man who had written it, and had learnt from him the particulars of the conversation with Col. Sharp, which had occasioned his writing the letter.

That in his first confession, he said he had buried the knife with which he had committed the murder, in a lot not far from the Governor's house; that, guided by his description of the place, Mr. B. Edrington went to hunt it; that he discovered it had been found by Mr. Wade, who occupied the lot, in spading up his garden in the spring; that Mr. Edrington brought the knife to me; that I went to the window of the jail with it, and was beginning to describe it to Beauchamp, when he stopped me, and without seeing it, gave a minute and accurate description of it, even to the manner in which it was ground and a worm hole in the handle; that on his request, I took him out, and he went to the spot where the knife was found, and put his stick upon it so accurately, that Mr. Wade said he could not have designated it more correctly himself, and said there was where he had buried it.

That Beauchamp often said, Doctor Sharp had done him more injury than Col. Sharp, and that he was inclined to kill him, but was dissuaded from it by his wife; and under the gallows, he said the intention was to kill Doctor Sharp, but he hoped God would prevent it.

That Beauchamp often told me, the handkerchief found at Col. Sharp's door, had been tied around the cuff of his coat, covering his hand, with the knife pierced through it to prevent the blood from flying on his hand or sleeve; that he had dropped it, he knew not how, in the room or at the door, and that he was in the alley searching for it when Gen. South came to the gate and tried to get in.

That Beauchamp often told me, Darby had written to him requesting him to make out such a statement of facts, in his wife's

case, as he was willing should be used against Col. Sharp, and that Beauchamp, in reply, informed him, they should not use his wife's name, in connection with her former shame, before the public, and that the man who did it, should die for it; but so far as Col. Sharp had ventured in that matter, he would make him account for it himself.

That Mrs. Beauchamp persisted in declaring that Darby had been at their house—this declaration she made even on the evening on which they took the laudanum, and that the Governor refused the respite; and requested that Col. Beauchamp, his uncle, should then take her deposition to prove that fact, contending that she intended to die with her husband, and that it was important for him to prove that by her oath; and that Beauchamp, the day after they had taken the laudanum, stated to me, at two different times, that Darby was guilty of a participation in the murder.

That Beauchamp frequently told me, that others, whose names he did not intend to mention, had meddled in this matter.

That Beauchamp said Mrs. Sharp's evidence was as correct, in the main points, as he could have given it himself; that he said he had sent the piece produced on the trial by Lowe, out of the jail in some socks, wrapped up in an old coat, to his wife, by his father; he said his father had no knowledge of what he was taking out, neither do I believe he had; and that he always stated to me, that no person knew any thing of that document but himself, until it reached his wife, and his reasons for preparing it for Lowe, as he stated, were that Lowe had once voluntarily sworn to a lie for him before a Magistrate.

That Beauchamp corresponded with his wife, before his trial, in a cypher, which I did not understand.

That I always told Beauchamp he had no pardon to expect, and ought to prepare to die; that he uniformly said he did not expect a pardon, unless the Governor should be satisfied there was no law to hang him; that he finally concluded not to ask for a pardon, but only for a respite; that his father told me he should apply for a pardon, to satisfy his mother, but had no hope of success; that while he was preparing what is called his first confession, implicating Darby, he told me he was preparing another more at large; that for a long time he abused the old Court party in the strongest terms; but when his hopes of pardon or respite became faint, he told me he "*had been new Court long enough, and would die an old Court man.*"

That many of the old Court party visited him at the jail; and that wine, and various other liquors, cake, and such other luxuries, were sent to him and his wife in abundance, from the free use of which, Mrs. Beauchamp very much improved in health and appearance, while in jail. Letters were written to them through the Post-Office, which I delivered sealed, and sometimes Beau-

champ would hand them to me to read, and at others did not. The persons who fed them with luxuries, were wholly the friends of Mr. Darby.

That many of the new Court party also visited them, but that, except Col. Beauchamp, not one of those whom Darby has charged with conspiring with them, against him; nor did one of them send wine, cake or other luxuries; nor did one of them write them letters, sealed or open, or hold any intercourse with them, either directly or indirectly, so far as I know or believe. I delivered all the letters he wrote to the Governor, except the last, and I know that no answer was returned, either verbal or written, to any of them. Nor do I believe he ever had any inducement held out to him to implicate the old Court party.

I saw Mrs. Beauchamp about twenty years ago; I then supposed her to be eighteen or twenty years old. She told me, when in jail, she was upwards of thirty-six. I supposed her to be forty. She was of slender form, and I think dark eyes and dark hair, fair skin, a middling long slender nose, rather a large forehead, mouth rather large, with upper foreteeth all artificial, low chin, face tapering downwards, inclined to be stoop-shouldered, not much, if any, appearance of breasts, about ninety pounds weight, and was, to me, by no means a desirable looking woman. She was affected in her utterance, even to childishness. She some times conversed upon novels, in which she seemed to be well read. The most part of the time she was in jail, she was in good health, ate heartily, and conversed freely, and seemed to have a lively flow of spirits. Her husband told me that she did not believe in a future state of existence, though she often spoke of going to heaven with her husband. In their intercourse with the preachers, they *pretended* to be penitent. I say *pretended*, because their conduct was very different in the absence of the preachers. And further, whilst under these pretended feelings, and a very short time before the day of his execution, he, for a very small offence of one of my servants, became enraged, cursed and swore, and used very profane and vulgar language. At times he affected to be converted. After they had taken the laudanum, and it had failed of the desired effect, he expressed great contrition for attempting self murder. Said that it was the greatest crime of his life; but that God had forgiven that and all the rest of his sins. Mrs. Beauchamp said but little in her last hours. It was apparent, that all his sorrow and repentance were feigned, to throw us off our guard, that they might accomplish their purposes more effectually. Whilst on the way to the gallows, B. said he had some compunction at taking his own life, but that from her deistical principles, his wife had no scruple on that subject.

JOHN M'INTOSH.

WILLIAM M'INTOSH'S STATEMENT.

The undersigned was employed by his brother, the jailer of Franklin county, to aid in guarding J. O. Beauchamp, and was often with him in jail, and almost constantly at the jail during his confinement after his conviction. Being requested by Doctor Sharp, he states:

That he frequently heard Mr. and Mrs. Beauchamp say, after the latter was convicted of the murder of Col. Sharp, that P. H. Darby had been at their house and concerted with them the murder of Col. Sharp.

That he heard them say repeatedly, that Beauchamp had received letters from Frankfort relative to Col. Sharp, one of which enclosed a handbill purporting to have been published by Col. Sharp, in which was inserted a certificate, that the child charged to him by Mrs. Beauchamp, was a coloured child.

That they stated several letters on this subject were concealed in a bed, and that on the evening Mrs. Beauchamp was taken, she gave directions to a negro woman to rip open the bed, take them out and burn them.

That on the night Col. J. Beauchamp went with a letter from J. O. Beauchamp to the Governor, asking for a respite, and after his return with information that no respite would be granted, Mr. and Mrs. Beauchamp persisted in the declaration that Darby had been at their house, and both of them begged their uncle to take her deposition, to be read in Darby's suit against him, alleging that they intended to die together, and the day after they had taken the laudanum, they still affirmed that Darby was guilty.

That Beauchamp said, Darby had written to him requesting him to make out a statement of such facts, relative to his wife and Col. Sharp, as he was willing to have used before the public, and that he informed him, in reply, they should not use his wife's name in such a contest, and the man who did it, should die for it; but that he would hold Col. Sharp accountable for what he had done himself.

That Beauchamp often declared Doctor Sharp had done him more injury than Col. Sharp, and he was disposed to kill him, but was persuaded out of it by his wife.

That Beauchamp stated he had the handkerchief mentioned on the trial, wrapped around his hand and the cuff of his coat, with the knife through it when he committed the murder, to prevent the blood from flying on his hand; that he had dropped it in the house or in the alley; that he was hunting for it in the alley when General South came to the gate and tried to push it open, and that it was fortunate for the General that he did not get in, as he should certainly have killed him.

That Beauchamp often said, that individuals, whom he should never name, had a hand in producing this murder.

That Beauchamp said, Mrs. Sharp had given an account of the murder, in her testimony before the Court, as straight as he could do it himself.

That Beauchamp stated, he had prepared the piece for Lowe to swear by, against Darby and others, because Lowe had once sworn a lie for him before a magistrate, and he thought would swear any thing for him; that he sent it to his wife, by his father, concealed in some socks which were wrapped up in other clothes; and that he never suggested the idea that any one aided him in preparing the paper, or encouraged him to it, or knew of it.

That many of the old Court party visited Beauchamp and wife in jail, and some sent them wine, cake and other luxuries.

That many of the new Court party also visited them; but none of those whom Darby has charged with conspiring with Beauchamp against him, ever did visit them; that none of that party sent them wine, cake or other luxuries, so far as I know or believe, or held any private intercourse with them, except only J. Beauchamp, his uncle.

That Beauchamp's father said he should apply to the Governor for a pardon, to satisfy his mother, but had no hope of success.

I was left in charge of the jail during the day, and was particularly charged by my brother not to let any person visit Beauchamp unless he was present, which charge was strictly complied with, a very few instances excepted, and then I was constantly with them. It was impossible that any interviews could be had with Beauchamp during the day, without the knowledge of myself or my brother, unless the walls were scaled in my absence. Whenever I was absent a few minutes, I locked the door that leads into the jail yard and put the key in my pocket.

WILLIAM M'INTOSH.

Frankfort, March 6th, 1827.

A STATEMENT OF BENJAMIN EDRINGTON,

One of the guard that guarded J. O. Beauchamp the principal part of the time he lay in jail and all the time after he was condemned to die.

I have no doubt but he told me as much of the particulars concerning what led him to the murder of Col. S. P. Sharp, as he did to any other person whom he had not been acquainted with before he was brought back to Frankfort, apprehended for the murder; as he got to believe, after his first trial, that I was not so prejudiced against him but I could do him justice, and although I had, in every conversation with him, told him, that I did believe he was

the man that killed Sharp, but could not conceive the cause that led him to it. Inasmuch as he married his wife with a full knowledge of all the facts, that certainly was not the main cause. He then solemnly declared to me, that he never had an unpleasant thought against Sharp on the account of his wife's affair with Sharp, before he married her and long after, and after he confessed that he did kill Sharp, I then asked him, how he could tell me that he never had an unpleasant thought against Sharp on that account? He then told me, in presence of his wife, that he never had, before his marriage nor after, until Darby brought the handbill down to his house and told him of the certificate in circulation in the neighborhood of Frankfort, of the child that his wife had before he married her, was a black one. He said that so enraged him, to think that Sharp, in order to clear himself of the stain, would attempt to heap that double reproach upon his bosom companion, that he then swore he would go to Frankfort and kill him publicly in the street; but he said Darby, with all his eloquence, insisted that he should not do that; for he certainly would be hanged for it, if he did. He said he would kill him publicly and plead justification; but Darby told him, that Sharp was too popular at Frankfort, and that if he killed him there, and was tried there, he surely would be condemned, and told him by no means to risk his life by killing Sharp publicly, but to kill him privately. She, Mrs. Beauchamp, then told me, that she joined Mr. Darby and went on her knees to her husband to take Darby's advice. She then observed to me, that her husband had done no more than you (alluding to me) would have done, or any other man of spirit, that loved his wife; saying at the same time, that she had come of one among the best families in Virginia, and had passed in the first circle of life, until that accident or misfortune had befallen her.

He had at this time made his confession and wrote a quire or two of paper in order to have it published and circulated, in hopes thereby to gain a respite or a reprieve, so far as to spare his life and banish him from the United States. He first put the manuscript into the hands of his uncle, J. Beauchamp, to have printed; but his uncle failed. He then let J. H. Holeman have the manuscript to examine, but he returned it and refused to publish it. He then put it to me to take it and have it published and circulate it through the State. His wife appeared very anxious for me to undertake the business. I then went into the jail with them, to examine what he had written, and heard him read it, and then examined it myself, and when I was done, I told him I could not undertake it. He asked why? I told him, because I did not believe that it contained the whole truth. He then whispered to his wife, and after he stopped, she then tried to bribe me to let her husband out of jail. He expressed that he had not any hope of escape in any other way. This, I think, must have been a month

before he was hanged, or more. In her persuasions with me on the subject of taking her husband out of jail, she urged that I had it in my power to save her husband, who was not prepared to die. I told her that her husband did not think of that when he went to kill Sharp.

Beauchamp also stated to me, at different times, how he lost the handkerchief at Sharp's, that was found at the door and lost by the guard as they brought Beauchamp back to Frankfort. He said, that he had tied it round his hand and wrist, to prevent the blood from getting on his clothes, and as Sharp was in the act of falling, he threw up his hand and caught the handkerchief that he had around his head, and in trying to save the one that was on his head he lost the one that was on his hand, and after he got out of the house, he found he had lost it. He then returned into the house again, and was in the house when they came in at the door with the candle. He then went into the alley and hunted there until some person came to the gate. He then ran down the alley, got over the fence and took the street by G. M. Bibb's, kept down to the corner and turned up the street passing Weisiger's tavern, until he came to the street that runs by the palace. After going that street some distance, he left the street and turned towards the hill, and hid the knife that he killed Sharp with, by sticking it in the ground. I told him I would go and find it. He told me he wished I would. I then went and told B. Hickman, that I thought I could find the knife that Beauchamp killed Sharp with. He asked me where? I told him where Beauchamp said he hid it. He then told me, that there had been a knife found there by Mr. Wade, as he understood. We then went to Wade and got the knife, and when Beauchamp heard that the knife was got, he told M'Intosh that if it was the knife, there was a hole in the handle like a worm hole, and that it was a small butcher knife, with a bone handle. When I went to the jail that evening, M'Intosh asked me, if there was a hole in the handle? I told him I did not know. Next morning, when I went home, I got the knife and found it precisely as he described it.

In several conversations with Beauchamp, after he was condemned, he told me, that Mrs. Sharp's evidence was as correct, in the general, as he could have told it himself, and Joel Scott's also, except he was out twice, instead of once; that the first time he went out, he was shown Sharp's house, and which room he lodged in. He then went back and dressed himself for the murder; that he did not wear any shoes when he went the last time to commit the murder.

I asked Beauchamp, after he confessed that Darby was not with him the night he killed Sharp, why it was, that he spoke so hard of him? He said, because every word that he said in his testimony against him, was false.

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On the morning of the same day that Beauchamp was hanged, I asked him what he intended to do with all that he had written? He told me that he had given all to his father. I then asked him, if his father was going to have it printed? He told me, that he had told his father, that the first six quires he had written was not true; but there was about thirty pages he had written last, of which I had seen a part, that he might have printed if he pleased. I have read the book that was published by Gervas S. Hammond as purporting to be Beauchamp's confession; but I know that part of his last writings is not in that book, and have good reasons to believe, that there is very little of what he said contained the truth printed, except his letters and hers, and the poetry.

It has generally been thought, that the reason why young Jerry could forgive all men but his uncle Jereboam Beauchamp, was, that his uncle had flattered him with a hope of a pardon, and had deceived him; but that is not the truth, as I well know, and there is none but myself that knows the true cause of his malice against his uncle; and for that reason I do not choose to state it here, but am ready, at all times, to satisfy any that have a particular desire to know the cause.

I have read the statements of John M'Intosh and his brother, and so far as the statements of the different facts come within my knowledge, they are true, and the greater part of each statement of the facts therein, I was eye witness to.

BENJAMIN EDRINGTON.

LETTER TO MRS. SHARP.

APRIL 27TH, 1827.

Dear Madam:

The anxious and tender solicitude, with which you cherish the memory of your deceased and ever to be lamented husband, and the zeal with which you seem determined to vindicate his memory from detraction, are strongly portrayed in your letters, to which this is intended as an answer. They are sentiments which have their sanction in the finest impulses of the human heart, excite our sympathy and command our respect. The policy of your request, "that his surviving friends should make out, for publication, a statement of their opinion of his public and private character," we cannot but think somewhat equivocal; for there is a justice in public sentiment, which forbids the spirit of detraction to invade or profane the sanctity of the tomb, and inflicts infamy upon all who shall dare to violate its sacred injunction.

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Upon this just and humane sentiment of mankind, we think the friends and relatives of Col. Sharp might safely rely. We know, however, and appreciate your feelings. Your bereavement was one of no ordinary character. The sorrows inflicted upon you, by the premature and tragical death of Col. Sharp, should not have been aggravated by calumnious imputations upon his memory. Detraction, however malignant, ought to have forborne "to break the bruised reed." We cannot, therefore, advise you to decline the vindication of his memory, which you contemplate; nor can we, without doing injustice to our own feelings, and inflicting agony upon your sensibilities, decline to make out the expression, which you solicit, of our opinion of Col. Sharp's character.

We have known Col. Sharp (most of us) intimately during the last twenty years of his life. As a lawyer, he had few equals and no superior in the State. As a statesman, he was highly distinguished. His patriotism was acknowledged by all; his talents were denied by none. For the duties of his profession, he had peculiar aptitudes. The powers of his very vigorous mind were most happily balanced. He consequently possessed an elevated, a serene, and almost imperturbable equanimity. He never, by his manner of discussing a case, inflicted pain upon the adverse party, his witnesses or counsel. Though capable of high eloquence, he rarely indulged in declamation. He seemed to rely exclusively upon his investigating and argumentative powers—powers which he possessed in a very eminent degree. But Col. Sharp was not *merely* the distinguished statesman, the profound lawyer, and the able advocate: He was remarkable for the extent and accuracy of his various information. His ardour for information was almost quenchless, and his constitution favored his aspirations. It was finely elastic, and capable of great intensity of application, without injury to his habitual good health. He was unassuming in his deportment, unpretending in conversation, placid in his disposition, and mild and conciliatory in his manners. He was the artificer of his own fortunes. He had acquired wealth and obtained distinction. He occupied a large space in the public mind, and was in a state of rapid expansion at the time of his death. In the walks of private life, Col. Sharp was as amiable as he was distinguished on the theatre of public life.

We considered Col. Sharp a great and good man. We deplored his death, not merely as a private, but as a public calamity; and we have no doubt, that when the political fervors of *the day* shall have subsided, he will be affectionately and proudly remembered by the people of Kentucky, as one of their most distinguished citizens.

You will perceive, madam, that we have not attempted a delineation of the public services and private virtues of your deceased husband. The limits of a letter forbid it; for that purpose, a

volume would be required. Accept assurances of our sincere sympathy with, and profound respect for you personally.

J. ROWAN,
JOHN ADAIR,
R^H: M. JOHNSON,
W. T. BARRY.

Mrs. ELIZA T. SHARP.

GENERAL BALTZELL'S STATEMENT.

Having learned, since my return from Florida, that Mr. R. Devine has given the substance of a conversation which we had shortly after the election of 1825, to be used in a publication of Doctor Sharp's, I do not hesitate to say, that after dark, as I walked the streets of Frankfort, as I passed by a small company, I did hear some one of them swear, that Col. Sharp should never take his seat in the Legislature.

G. BALTZELL.

June 9th, 1827.

CONCLUSION.

This publication was commenced, as some of its pages indicate, early in the season. Mr. Darby unexpectedly showed a disposition, at the June Court in Woodford county, to bring his suits against Mrs. Sharp, myself, &c. to a trial, and it was deemed proper to delay the publication until the suits should be disposed of. The trial, at that Court, terminated in a divided jury, in the suit against myself, and the rest were not taken up. At the late September term, the Court had not time to enter into those suits. If I were to wait until there is a verdict in any of them, the public might never see my vindication, and, therefore, I have determined to delay it no longer. I regret that it is not in my power, by the termination of the suit against me, to add much of the evidence herein referred to, as given under the oaths of the witnesses. If it be necessary, the trials may yet be published, when they shall be completed.

I have now done my duty. I trust the memory of my brother is vindicated before the world, and as to the causes of his murder, there can no longer be a mistake.

Lest I may have used expressions which seem to indicate a charge against the old Court party in mass, for this murder, I deem it my duty here to disavow any intention to make such charge against that party, or any considerable number of them. I do believe, that it originated wholly in party feeling; but there were few, *very few*, who had any agency in stimulating the murderer, or knew his intentions. That Beauchamp was actuated by private wrongs as well as party rancor, I fully believe; but his private feelings were excited by the falsehoods of political partizans, invented and communicated to him for the purpose of producing the ruin or the death of my brother.

With entire confidence in the justice of public opinion, and in the entire acquittal of my brother, I rest the cause with perfect resignation to any fate which the malice of bad men may have prepared for myself, Mrs. Sharp, the orphan children of my brother, our family and friends.

LEANDER J. SHARP.

ERRATA. In page 23, the name of *Frances Summers* should have been printed *Francis Summers*.

The name of *Miss Dowell* has, in some instances, been printed *Mrs. Dowell*.

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