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OFFICE on the South side of Market Street, be-  
low the Court House.

**Trial of Richard Lawrence.**  
FOR AN ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE THE PRES-  
IDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

[Reported for the National Intelligencer.]  
Present—Hon. Judge Cranch, Morsell,  
and Thurston.

Counsel—On behalf of the U. States  
Francis S. Key.  
For the Prisoner, William L. Brent  
and Jas. F. Brent.

The Court opened soon after 9 o'clock  
A. M., and the Prisoner, Richard Lawrence,  
was brought into Court, in the custody  
of the Deputy Marshal, Mr. Wood-  
ward. Lawrence was dressed in a gray  
coat; it appeared to us to be of the descrip-  
tion of what they call a shooting-out;  
black cravat and vest; and brown pantaloons.  
His appearance was that of a man  
perfectly at his ease, and collected; but  
there is an appearance about his eyes, cer-  
tainly, indicative of mania; and an evi-  
dent assumption of kingly dignity in his  
demeanor and the expression of his coun-  
tenance. He took his seat, however, very  
quietly by the side of his counsel, and con-  
versed, smilingly, with them. We know  
it to be customary for all prisoners, on  
particular charges, to be reported as hand-  
some and prepossessing, but Lawrence  
certainly was entitled, and honestly en-  
titled, to these personal attributes, as he  
appeared this morning in Court. It was  
the opinion universally expressed.

The witnesses having been called into  
Court,  
Mr. Key rose to address some observa-  
tions to the Bench, when Lawrence started  
up from his chair, under evident excite-  
ment of mind, and said he wished to  
know whether it was correct to bring  
him there, or not? He claimed the Crown  
of Great Britain, he said, and also that of  
the United States; and he wished to know  
if they could bring him there?

Judge Cranch desired him to take his  
seat, and let his counsel manage his case  
for him.

Lawrence complied; but still appar-  
ently continued the subject, in conversation  
with his counsel.

Mr. W. L. Brent inquired of the Court,  
whether, as this was simply the case of a  
misdemeanor, the presence of the prison-  
er, considering his state of mind, might  
not be dispensed with.

Lawrence again rose, and addressed  
the Court. He wished to know, if hav-  
ing, as he had, the sword—

He was again stopped; and  
Mr. Brent stated his belief, that it would  
be impossible for the trial to proceed, if  
the prisoner remained in Court. The  
course which it must take, the defence  
which it was intended to set up, could  
not fail still further to excite him. He  
would, indeed, rather he should remain  
if it were possible.

The Court thought it necessary that  
the prisoner should remain.

Mr. Brent said he had done all he  
could to quiet the prisoner's feelings;  
but had not been able to present any  
course of which he would make choice.

Judge Morsell said, it was always cus-  
tomary for the prisoner to be in Court, in  
cases like the present. To permit him  
to depart would be altogether a novel  
proceeding; he should like the trial to  
proceed in the ordinary way.

The panel was then called; on which  
Lawrence observed, that they had called  
the jury; that he wished to know if  
this was correct; he certainly was King,  
Judge Cranch. You must sit down  
and be quiet, Mr. Lawrence, until called  
on to answer.

The prisoner sat down; but not until  
he had reiterated the assertion, that he  
was King of Great Britain, and likewise  
of this country, and that he was protected  
by the law in his claim.

The following Jury was then sworn,  
many of the whole panel having been  
challenged on various grounds; chiefly  
of having formed and expressed opinions  
upon the case:

Mr. H. L. Cross, Charles Butler, John B.  
Ferguson, Samuel Wilson, Wm. Eaton,  
Edward A. Roche, Benjamin Sewall,  
Noble Hertell, Paul Stevens, Jeremi-  
ah Orme, Wm. Orme, John Mount.

The witnesses present for the prose-  
cution having been sworn:  
Mr. F. S. Key rose and opened the  
case, somewhat to the following effect—  
The prisoner before the Jury was charged  
with an offence which was, at least in  
this part of the world, of very rare occur-  
rence; which rendered it the more neces-  
sary that he should give a statement as  
to the nature of the evidence which he  
should produce; and, further, because many  
rumors, wide of the truth, as usually  
happened in such cases, had gone abroad,

The prisoner was charged with an as-  
sault, with intent to kill and murder; and  
the object of that assault was the Chief  
Magistrate of the county. There were  
two counts in the indictment. One charg-  
ing the assault, with intent to kill, &c.;  
the other, stating more particularly the  
manner, instruments, &c. It was an of-  
fence, which was, by our laws, a mere  
misdemeanor, and punishable by fine and  
imprisonment. The station, or office, of  
the object of this crime, was to be left en-  
tirely out of the question; and it was to  
be considered in the same light as though  
committed on the most humble individual  
in the country. The framers of our Con-  
stitution had not thought it necessary to  
surround the Chief Magistrate with any  
additional protection than those laws,  
which were deemed sufficient for the  
citizen holding the most obscure station.  
The love of order and of justice had here-  
tofore been found, and he hoped, would  
continue to be found, sufficient for this  
purpose. They were not to look on the  
extraordinary and providential delivery of  
the President from the danger of the prison-  
er's act; but, free from any anxiety, to  
judge of the case according to the evi-  
dence which would be offered.

It would be found, that, on a public oc-  
casion, the President and Heads of the  
Departments were retiring from the Hall  
of Representatives, from the funeral cere-  
monies which had taken place in conse-  
quence of the death of one of the mem-  
bers of the House. Of course, there was  
a large concourse of persons present. A-  
mongst them was the prisoner, armed  
with two pistols, perfectly well loaded;  
who planted himself in a situation the  
best adapted for the accomplishment of  
the object he had in view. He placed  
himself at the entrance of a door, through  
which he knew the President must pass;  
having the pistols concealed under his  
coat. The percussion cap exploded, but  
did not communicate with the powder in  
the tube. He immediately dropt that pis-  
tol, having been seized by several indi-  
viduals, but not so as to prevent him from  
directing a second pistol at the President,  
which he snapped with like success.—  
The friends of the President, with a for-  
bearance highly commendable, placed no  
further constraint on him; used no fur-  
ther violence than to give him into the  
hands of the officer, where he had been  
ever since. When brought before the  
Chief Justice, no man could have acted  
with more calmness or intelligence. He  
was now before that honorable Court for  
trial. The sole defence which can be set  
up, and which it is to be presumed will  
be set up, is, that the prisoner is of un-  
sound mind, and therefore incapable of  
being actuated by a malicious motive.

The ground of defence will, no doubt,  
be that of lunacy; that he is deranged.—  
And in ascertaining the truth of this, lies  
the only difficulty; but, it will be conced-  
ed that this is a ground of defence liable  
to be rebutted by evidence to the con-  
trary. In making this statement, it was not  
his wish to influence the minds of the  
jury. It might turn out that the prisoner  
was insane, and he (Mr. K.) believed the  
community in general would be glad  
to hear that such an excuse existed; but  
as the same time it was due to the inter-  
ests and safety of society, that it should  
be shown by clear evidence that he was  
not a reasonable being, and, therefore  
punishable. It was for this reason neces-  
sary that he should state what the law  
was as to the nature of the evidence nec-  
essary to prove such an irresponsible  
state; and he should do so by referring to  
grave adjudications on this subject.—  
There were various states of insanity.—  
There were many who were totally in-  
sane; whose reason was altogether gone;  
either by reason of some accident, or  
from inherent incapacity. Such persons  
should, of course, be confined, to keep  
them from doing mischief. In this case,  
the person is totally insane; no ray of  
mental light illuminaing his brain; he is  
so, at all times, and on all subjects. No  
one, however, would contend for a mo-  
ment, that the prisoner belonged to this  
class. He (Mr. K.) admitted there were  
states of madness which fell far short of  
this; cases of partial insanity, in which  
the individual was at times perfectly sane;  
and what is termed his lucid intervals.—  
The inquiry then arises, whether the per-  
son was in a state of insanity, or whether  
it was during a lucid interval that he com-  
mitted the crime. If the prisoner is to  
be considered as belonging to this second  
class, then the question would be, in what  
state of mind was the prisoner when he  
committed this assault? If in the state of  
lunacy, then he was punishable; but if  
done during a lucid interval, then he was  
not to be excused, and must be punished,  
inasmuch as it is an act done by a man  
in possession of his reason. This distinc-  
tion was clear. But this was not all.—  
There was an infinite variety of feelings  
bound up in the form of lunacy; there  
was another description of partial derange-  
ment. There was a state of lunacy in  
which the person affected was only in-  
sane as to one particular subject; being  
as capable of reasoning on all others as  
any other person; and these were the  
cases of the greatest difficulty. If it ap-  
pears that a man is a lunatic, and further,  
that he is partially so only; if it appears  
that he is only so as to particular subjects,  
then another subject of inquiry arises;  
and the rule in this subject is equally  
plain. What is the nature of the act

which the person has committed? Does  
it appear that it is connected with—that  
it is the offspring of that delusion under  
which he suffers? Does it spring from  
various causes, or from the excitement of  
other causes? Or is it by a cause exciting  
this particular state of mind? In the pre-  
sent case, the prisoner has committed an  
assault, certainly with a murderous in-  
tent. If under a state of total insanity,  
they would then have to consider what  
the public safety required; if only under  
the influence of partial insanity, they were  
then to examine into the character of the  
delusion under which the prisoner was  
laboring, to ascertain the connection be-  
tween the act committed and that delu-  
sion; and to see whether it was delusion,  
and delusion alone, which had induced  
the act. He (Mr. K.) thought there  
might be evidence to show that the man  
was actually under a delusion as to a  
particular subject. They would then  
have to compare this with the evidence  
on the other side, and see how far the  
crime could be considered as connected  
with that delusion. No man could have  
shown more intelligence, more caution,  
and prudence, throughout the proceedings  
against him; and further, they would find,  
from the evidence to be produced on the  
part of the United States, an avowal of  
objects totally unconnected with the ap-  
parent subject of his delusion. He did  
not say this to influence the minds of the  
jury; he only wished to use those means  
which would be adopted by the counsel  
on the part of the prisoner.

A remarkable trial, which occurred  
not many years ago in England, seemed  
to have settled the law in such cases.—  
[Mr. K. referred to the case of Hadfield,  
for shooting at George III.] It would be  
found in Vol. 37 of Howell's State Tri-  
als. The passage he should read, from  
commenced at page 1314. He was per-  
fectly willing that the law, as then laid  
down by the Counsel of the prisoner, the  
eminent Erskine, should be adopted in  
the present case. The counsel for the  
prisoner, he was willing, should have the  
aid of the arguments used, and used too,  
successfully, by that great man, in the  
case of Hadfield. He asked for the ad-  
option of no other rule of law on the pre-  
sent occasion. He would read a few pas-  
sages from the trial alluded to. [Mr. K.  
then read an extract from the argument of  
Mr. Erskine, in which he admitted that  
it was not enough to show a delusion  
to exist in the mind of the perpetrator of  
a crime to render him punishable; but  
that it must be further shown, that there  
was a connection between the delusion  
and the act committed. Mr. K. further  
mentioned the case of Edward Arnold,  
for shooting Lord Onslow; in which a  
like doctrine was laid down, and which  
case was referred to and the principle  
generally admitted by Erskine, when  
pleading the cause of Hadfield.] Mr.  
K. proceeded: It was not every lunatic,  
even, who was to be held unaccountable.  
There was a general impression, that  
such was the case; but it was not so;  
there were lunatics who were account-  
able at particular times. If then the jury  
should be of opinion, that the prisoner  
was, at the time of committing the act,  
under a delusion; that the delusion ori-  
ginated the act; he was, certainly, not  
guilty; and he (Mr. K.) believed that the  
community would rejoice if it should be  
found that such was the case; but if it  
appeared that he was a man of violent  
temper and capricious humors; that the  
act did not spring from delusion, but from  
other causes; then they could not acquit  
him from the consequences of his crime.  
He should lay before them not only the  
evidence as to the manner of the act, his  
appearance and behaviour before the  
Judge; but also the instruments, which  
they would see were as well calculated to  
accomplish the purpose designed, and as  
well prepared for it, as they could have  
been by any man of intelligence. By the  
withdrawal of the charge of one of these  
pistols before the Judge, on the occasion  
of his first examination, it was shown  
that it consisted of a ball well fitted to the  
piece, and powder of a very fine quality.  
The other was examined on the succeed-  
ing day, and was fired off without any al-  
teration of its charge. The powder was  
distinctly seen in the tube; and it was re-  
peatedly fired off after this. This, then,  
was sufficient to show that there was no  
defect in the instruments or their loading;  
and also the deadly intent of the prisoner,  
which was so happily frustrated by Pro-  
vidential interference. He knew that all  
these acts might be done even by a man  
of unsound mind; but, still, there were  
circumstances to be considered in this  
case; in which the guilt or innocence of  
the prisoner must depend on the issue,  
whether he is properly to be considered  
as having been an accountable human  
agent at the time he committed the crime.  
Mr. K. concluded his remarks by saying  
it was unnecessary to read the indictment,  
inasmuch as it was nothing more than a  
common law indictment.

Mr. Secretary Woodbury was then  
sworn and examined.

By Mr. Key.—On the occasion of the  
funeral ceremony which took place in  
the Hall of Representatives, in conse-  
quence of the death of one of its members,  
(Warren R. Davis, attended together with  
the President and other officers of the  
Government; had listened to the funeral  
service in the Hall; left it; the Presi-  
dent being on my right arm; had passed

through the Rotunda, and through the  
eastern door, where we came rather to a  
halt, (being in the rear,) in consequence  
of the delay occasioned by the gentlemen  
who had preceded us getting into the  
coaches. We had perhaps passed some  
two or three steps on the portico, when I  
heard a noise like the discharge of a pis-  
tol; was to the left; looked round direct-  
ly, and there saw a person about six or  
eight feet, a little obliquely to the left,  
(might not be exact as to distance,) who  
was just in the act of lowering his  
hand when my eye caught him. It was  
the prisoner at the bar; saw him distinc-  
tly when I turned, and saw the pis-  
tol in his hand; presumed he was the  
person who had fired; it was directed  
towards the President; at first I doubted  
whether it was not myself who was aimed  
at; but I saw that it was towards the  
President, who was on my right; turned  
to the President to see if he was injured;  
seeing he was not, turned to look for the  
prisoner; he was then in the act of  
raising his hand again, had something in  
it; presumed it was a pistol; was not cer-  
tain whether it was the same or another,  
thought probably it might be a double  
barrelled pistol; gave a pull from the  
President's arm, and sprung towards the  
prisoner; seized him by the collar, and  
at that moment the second explosion took  
place; thought so from the noise; other  
persons had previously got hold of him;  
which appeared to have put him, rather  
out of his first position; they continued to  
pull him, with some violence, in a some-  
what opposite direction. Seeing he was  
secured, and that there was reason to be-  
lieve he had no other weapon, I let go  
my hold and turned to see what was the  
state of the President after the second dis-  
charge as I thought it. The prisoner  
was dragged forward towards the front  
of the piazza; saw no more of him until  
I saw him here an hour after; found the  
President in the crowd and went home  
with him; afterwards went to several mag-  
istrates' offices to see what had become  
of the prisoner; not finding him, came to  
this room, where he had been brought  
for examination. It was suggested that  
Mr. Burd, a member, had possession of the  
pistol. That gentlemen shortly after  
arrived, bringing with him two pistols,  
which were produced; should recognize  
if I saw them again, by their general ap-  
pearance. An inquiry was made if they  
were loaded; Mr. Burd or Lieutenant  
Gedney hereupon tried them, I believe  
with a pencil case; it went down but a  
little way; an anxiety was expressed on  
the part of the Court to know what was  
the nature of the charge in the pistol, and  
an instrument was produced; presume it  
had a screw at the end, and a ball was  
drawn out; the ball was examined and the  
next question was what was below the  
ball; it was found to be gunpowder;  
which was poured out, and also exam-  
ined; believe there was about the quantity  
usual for a charge of such a pistol, al-  
though I am not well versed in such  
matters; did not recollect if the other pis-  
tol was examined; did not notice any thing  
unusual or peculiar in the manner of the  
prisoner; in answer to a question put by  
the Court, he said he had no answer to  
give; saw nothing peculiar in either his  
answers or deportment; although others  
might perhaps.

Cross-examined by Mr. Brent.—Do  
not know, of my own knowledge, whether  
the pistols are the same; several per-  
sons had hold of the prisoner before I  
seized him, and pushed him out of the  
position in which he fired the pistol; the  
prisoner did not express any reason for  
the act to me, but I heard had done so to  
some gentleman on his way from the Cap-  
itol.

By a Juror.—It is my impression that  
the powder was loose in the pistol, not in  
a cartridge.

Mr. Secretary Dickerson examined.

By Mr. Key.—Went with other gentle-  
men of the Cabinet to the Capitol, on the  
day of the funeral of the Hon. W. R. Dav-  
is; after the service in the Hall, the pro-  
cession moved forward towards the East-  
ern colonnade; was a great crowd; was  
a little in the rear of the President; at  
the door of the colonnade there was a halt,  
which brought me up nearly to his side;  
had advanced I think about two steps from  
the door, when I heard the discharge of a  
pocket pistol, have certainly heard such  
pistols discharged without making a loud-  
er report; it being in the colonnade might  
have increased the sound; I turned my  
eye, and saw some man had laid hold of  
an individual; I was to the left of the  
President; saw Lieutenant Gedney, and  
supposed he was trying to get the man  
down, but could not see the man; it was  
some seconds before the prisoner could  
get at his second pistol; and when he  
did, from his altered position, he had to  
throw his arm over to get aim at the Presi-  
dent; certain it was aimed at him; was  
very near; saw the prisoner distinctly;  
saw the size of the pistol, but could not  
say whether it was brass or steel; it ap-  
peared that it must have struck the Presi-  
dent had a discharge taken place; in a  
second from this time, the prisoner was  
crushed to the floor; but was soon raised  
again; Mr. Gillet, a member from New  
York State, a very strong man, had hold  
of him, as also had Lieut. Gedney; I  
looked at the prisoner, and kept my eye  
on him, so as to be certain of his identi-  
ty; about the instant the second explosion  
took place the President had lifted his

stick, to strike the prisoner, but made no  
blow, being prevented by his friends.

By Mr. W. L. Brent.—This was at the  
moment of the second explosion. Should  
have said on the day, that the distance of  
the President from the pistol was 8 or 9  
feet; had since ascertained it was 12 or  
13 feet.

By Mr. Key.—Believe the pistols now  
in the Court to be the same; are precise-  
ly the same make; saw it ascertained by  
a pencil-case, in court, that the pistols  
were loaded; saw the charge of one of  
them drawn; the powder was fine, and  
there was a proper proportion for a charge;  
the ball was difficult to draw it fitted so  
close in.

By a Juror.—Am not certain, but think  
there was a patch round the ball.

By Mr. Key.—Demeanor of prisoner  
was perfectly cool during his examination;  
said he had no wish to question the wit-  
nesses; recollect his own saying, "that  
must be proved;" understood him to mean  
that he did not confess the act; believe  
this was after the examination of the first  
witness.

By Mr. W. L. Brent.—The Presid-  
ent was about three feet from me, on the right;  
no one was between us; did not see the  
first explosion, but heard it; saw the sec-  
ond, do not know if both were from the  
same pistol; think the second was not so  
loud as the first explosion; was a great  
crowd coming out at the door; did not  
hear Lawrence say, it was at the Presi-  
dent he directed the pistol; but formed  
that opinion from what I saw.

By Mr. Key.—At the time of the as-  
sault was entering the door of the East-  
ern portico; going into the Rotunda; I  
observed the President with Mr. Wood-  
bury; they had advanced two or three steps  
from the door; observed some movement  
in the crowd; turned my eye, and saw  
this man with a pistol; I seized him by  
the shoulder, and got him down; he dropt  
the pistol; there were two; Mr. Burd  
had the pistols; some five or six persons  
seized the prisoner, and I then lost sight  
of him; examined the pistols, with Mr.  
Burd; did so with a pencil case; both  
were loaded; saw nothing further, till I  
saw the prisoner in court; I took one pis-  
tol; Mr. Burd the other, examined them  
both directly; saw but the first discharge;  
the pistol was apparently aimed at the  
President.

By Mr. W. L. Brent.—Was at about  
the distance of eight feet from Lawrence,  
and at about an equal distance from the  
President, on the left; was directly be-  
tween Lawrence and the President; was  
a great crowd at the door.

By a Juror.—Had hold of him at the  
time he snapped the second pistol.

Mr. Secretary Dickerson re-examined  
by Mr. Brent.—The President spoke an-  
grily to those who prevented him from  
getting at Lawrence; said, "let me alone!  
let me alone!" Recollect hearing him  
also say, "he knew where this came  
from!" Understood he did say more.

Mr. Hunter, (the Marshal,) examined.  
By Mr. Key.—Seized the prisoner;  
had been in attendance in the Supreme  
Court; perceived a crowd; pushed thro'  
it, and took the prisoner, without know-  
ing what he had done; this was a few  
moments after he had been disarmed,  
brought him down before Judge Cranch,  
was present on his examination; am quite  
sure the pistols now in court are same;  
they were marked at the time.

[Mr. Burd's evidence, which had been  
taken before Judge Cranch, by consent  
of the prisoner's Counsel, to allow Mr.  
B. to return home, was now given by  
the honorable Judge.]

Judge Cranch.—Mr. Burd, on the day  
of the examination of Lawrence, produced  
a pair of pistols in court; I believe these  
to be the same; they were marked on the  
breach; he was asked if they were in the  
same condition as when taken from Law-  
rence, and said yes; both were loaded.

Mr. Hunter continued: These were  
the same pistols; saw the bullet extracted  
by a ramrod; believe by Mr. Blair. [The  
ball and powder were produced.] There  
was a patch on the ball; the pistol was  
charged in the usual way; there were oth-  
er percussion caps, balls, &c. found in  
the prisoner's trunk; also in his pocket;  
saw the powder in the other pistol; took  
one of the caps found on Lawrence, and  
fired that pistol; the ball passed through  
one plank, and nearly buried itself in a  
second, some yards beyond.

By a Juror.—No priming wire was  
used on the occasion; tried several times  
with the other pistol; and was surprised  
that it did not go off; but found the rea-  
son to be that there was nothing in it,  
the powder and ball having both fallen  
out.

By Mr. Brent.—When Lawrence was  
conveyed from the Capitol, in the hack,  
he appeared perfectly collected; said his  
reason for the act was, that the President  
had killed his father; that his influence  
was so great that he had got every one to  
to persecute his father so that he died  
poor.

By a Juror.—Do not think he said  
then, how long his father had been dead;  
he said he could not account for the pis-  
tols not going off, unless it was its being  
a damp day; that he could kill a man at ten  
paces with them. [The witness related  
some further particulars as to the trial of  
the pistols, in the presence of Mr. Key  
and Major Donelson, which were not dis-  
tinctly heard.]

Lieutenant Gedney re-examined by Mr.

Brent.—Was of opinion that the cap did  
not explode the second time.

Mr. Hunter further examined by Mr.  
Key.—Both pistols were without caps;  
but a portion of the cap always remains  
on the hammer; the pistols were in pos-  
session of Judge Cranch for a short time;  
but since then have been in my posses-  
sion.

Judge Cranch examined by Mr. Key.—  
The prisoner on the occasion of his first  
examination did not seem to attend very  
particularly to the evidence given; his  
manners were cool; but he seemed indif-  
ferent; do not recollect the prisoner's re-  
mark as to proof being necessary of his id-  
entity, after the examination of the first  
witness; believe he was asked if he wish-  
ed to put any question, after the examina-  
tion of each witness; he did not appear  
absent in mind, but rather regardless of  
what was going on; on one occasion did  
say, "I cannot contradict what the gentle-  
man has said."

The foregoing evidence having been  
gone through on the part of the prose-  
cution,

Mr. W. L. Brent asked permission for  
the prisoner to leave the court. It was  
painful to all that he should remain; par-  
ticularly so to himself, as his counsel;  
and the law did not require his presence.

Lawrence then rose, and addressed  
himself wildly to the judges; what he  
had done to Jackson, was on account of  
money which he owed him; he had come  
there for that purpose; he considered all  
in that court as under him; the United  
States Bank had owed him money ever  
since 1802, and he wanted his money; he  
must have his revenue from that bank.—  
You are under me, gentlemen. [Mr.  
Woodward, the Deputy Marshal, endea-  
voring to prevail on him to resume his  
seat, he turned round, indignantly, and  
said, "Mr. Woodward mind your own  
business, or I shall treat you with sever-  
ity!" It is for me, gentlemen, to pass up-  
on you, and not you upon me.

Mr. Brent again appealed to the feel-  
ings of the Court to spare itself, and the  
jury, this painful exhibition, by permit-  
ting Lawrence to depart in custody of the Mar-  
shal. Why should the prisoner be det-  
ained on this any more than on other sim-  
ilar occasions. He felt, for his own  
part, that he could not do justice to the  
cause of the prisoner if he sat beside him;  
the very fact, that he should take a course  
in the defence of the prisoner which he  
was displeas'd, would prevent it. He  
hoped the honorable counsel for the prose-  
cution would permit Lawrence to leave  
the Court.

Mr. Key said, he hoped it was not un-  
derstood that he objected to that course;  
he was neutral on the subject; he had  
himself no power to grant him leave to  
depart.

The Court was of opinion that Law-  
rence should remain until proven to be  
insane. He would, however, be permit-  
ted to withdraw, if it was his own wish  
so to do.

[The unfortunate maniac again started  
up, and denied the power of the Court to  
try him; he was his own man, he said,  
and would have his revenue.

Mr. Brent endeavored, and successfull-  
ly, to soothe Lawrence, by telling him he  
should have his rights. "Ay, but when?"  
"To-day replied his counsels; and he said  
down, contentedly, on this assurance.]

Mr. Brent said he thought it quite un-  
necessary after the able exposition of the  
law of the case, which had been given by  
the Counsel for the United States, to trou-  
ble the Court or Jury with any further  
remarks on that subject; he subscribed fully  
to the principles laid down by that  
learned gentleman; all that remained was  
to prove that the mind of this unfortunate  
man was in a state of morbid delusion—  
He would proceed to call witnesses for  
this purpose.

Mr. Redfern sworn.

Examined by Mr. Brent.—Have  
known Lawrence for sixteen years; I  
married his sister; first observed a change  
in him in 1833; in the fall of 1832 he  
left Washington with an intention, as he  
said, of going to England; he left in No-  
vember, and returned again in December,  
assigning as a reason that the weather  
was too cold; in the Spring of the next  
year, he started again to go to New York  
or Philadelphia; he certainly got no  
farther than Philadelphia; on his re-  
turn this time, he said the People would  
not let him go; that this Government  
opposed his going; that I and others had  
prevented him; that he should not be able  
to go, until he got a ship and captain  
of his own; that when he got to Philadel-  
phia, he found all the papers so full about  
him, that he was obliged to come back.  
After this he remained in my house six  
months, but did nothing; said he had no  
work, but that he lived on his People; it  
was very well for men such as me to  
work, but he had no need; that he had  
large claims on this Government, which  
were now before Congress; and he used  
to attend Congress regularly; he left my  
house in January, 1834, but, previous to  
this, had got quarrelsome with his sister;  
said the colored girl laughed at him, and  
that he would kill her; he said that other  
people also laughed at him; he struck all  
his sisters on several occasions, and once  
took up a four pound weight to throw at  
my wife; I have seen him pass since this  
time, but never have spoken to him since  
1833; he would go about the house  
without speaking for days together,  
but would talk and laugh to himself.