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The winter of 1779, set in with so much severity, that the channels of transportation were closed, and the troops in the neighborhood of West Point and Morristown were reduced to the greatest distress for the want of provisions. Washington, with great foresight, had anticipated this, for on the 4th of October, in a letter to the president of congress, he observed that "it would be well for the Marine Committee to be directed to turn their attention to the transportation of flour from the Delaware and Chesapeake by water. Should we obtain the command of the sea, vessels might, without the last danger be introduced within the Hook, thence to Amboy, from whence their cargoes might easily be conveyed in boats up Newark Bay. Or should some of them run round into the Sound, it might be equally, nay, more convenient. Should we operate to the eastward, measures of this kind will be indispensably necessary, as the length and difficulty of land carriage will render the support of any considerable body of men almost impossible. The wheat of Maryland being in more forwardness for grinding than any other, I could wish that Governor Johnson may be requested to push the purchases within that State. The commissary-general gives the fullest encouragement on the score of beef, but of flour he continues to express his fears."*

* Sparks, vl., p. 370.

A similar outrage upon the highest judicial authority of the State was perpetrated on June 28th (1862), by the arrest in Baltimore of Judge James L. Bartol, of the Court of Appeals, and his confinement in a casemate of Fort McHenry. Such was the use made of a fortress built by the citizens of Maryland and ceded to the Federal government for their defence. Judge Bartol's crime was his manful stand for the laws of his State and Constitutional rights of her citizens. He was released after a few days' imprisonment without any charge being openly performed against him, or any explanation given.

In addition to Fort McHenry, which had already played an important part in the war, Fort Federal Hill, and Fort Marshall, upon higher ground than Fort McHenry, mounted each with fifty to sixty guns of forty-two and thirty-two pounders, and eight-inch columbiads with a few rifled pieces, could have destroyed Baltimore in a short time, this being the style of "defence" determined on, if they were not able to keep the Confederates from capturing the city. Boasts were openly made that the first shell from Fort Federal Hill would be thrown directly into the Maryland Club, at the northeast corner of Franklin and Cathedral streets, the "latin quarter," as it was sometimes called, for the exact range of the building had been ascertained, and it was regarded by the military authorities as the very focus of "treason" in the city.* Besides these heavy works, and Fort Washington, afterwards constructed, on the northeastern outskirts of the city, on even higher ground than Fort Marshall, a great number of earth works were thrown up completing the circuit of defences.

* It was closed on the 28th of June, 1863, by order of General Schenck, and was not again opened until after the war ended, two years later.