

THE SUN.

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THE STATE OF MARYLAND

FIRES IN PRINCE GEORGE'S.

SIX MEN ARRESTED BY CONSTABLES.

The Prisoners Taken at the Point of the Revolver—Joe Vermillion Accused by His Brother—Preliminary Hearing.

[Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.]

UPPER MAHLBORO', MD., Nov. 23.—The

constables sent to arrest the Vermillions, charged with having started the incendiary fires on Saturday night at Mulliken's Station, Prince George's county, returned with six prisoners. They are all grown men and most of them fathers of large families. Their names are Edward, John, George, Lloyd and Joseph Vermillion and Charles Bell, a brother-in-law of the Vermillions. They were all arrested at the point of the revolver and after being ordered to throw up their hands. Five deputies, Messrs. Joseph Burke, O. S. Wickham, R. L. Beall, Hume Duvall and Richard Hardesty, Jr., hearing of the whereabouts of Joseph Vermillion, proceeded to the dwelling of R. Tucker, near Benning's Station, B. and P. R. R., and after surrounding the house forced an entrance and immediately ordered Joseph to throw up his hands. This he refused to do, and it was only after being roughly handled by the men that he submitted to arrest. He is an escaped prisoner from the House of Correction, and Mr. Moore, the superintendent, is anxious to have him back to spend his remaining eighteen months' sentence in that institution.

John Vermillion, Jr., was the only one willing to speak about the occurrence. He says that his brother Joseph has got them all into this difficulty. John said that on Saturday night, about 8½ o'clock, Joseph, who has been living in the woods, came to his house and threatened to get even with those who would not give his father justice in the affair the night before (Friday) when the elder Vermillion's house was burned by a band of men who tied him to a tree, and only released him on his promise to leave the neighborhood. Both the father, who was in John's house, and John himself tried to persuade Joseph from carrying out the threat, whereupon he left. About 11:30 Joe returned to the house and asked to be admitted, carrying in his hand a coal-oil can. He told John that he had a little fire of his own. He immediately left, and nothing was known of his whereabouts until arrested last night. Ed. Bell, the brother-in-law, is charged with burning his own house, which he rented from James Hamilton. He denies the charge, and says Joe did it after leaving the barns. Many thought that Joseph would never reach the jail alive, as the excitement prevailing at and about Mulliken's was so great that fears of violence were entertained. John Vermillion, Sr., aged 73 years, the father of the men arrested, has not yet been apprehended, but deputy sheriffs are searching for him.

At a preliminary hearing before Justice Harris, Mr. E. E. Bandt, State's attorney, being present, John Vermillion, Jr., testified as to the burning of his father's house near Hull's Station. Lloyd Vermillion testified that he saw his brother Joe on Saturday afternoon about 4 o'clock with a coal oil can. Joe stated he was going to burn out Mr. J. T. Clark that night, as he had burned one of his houses some two years ago. Messrs. J. T. Clark and Walter Ryan testified that they were aroused by the cry of fire, and stated the amount of their loss by the burning of their barns Saturday night. Joe Vermillion pleaded not guilty, and said he was not in the county at the time. He was sent to jail to await the action of the grand jury and immediately placed in irons after resisting the officers. As there was no evidence to implicate any one else, the charge of arson against the other Vermillions was dismissed, but thirteen citizens of Mulliken's neighborhood swore out peace warrants against each of the other Vermillion boys, and they were placed in jail in default of \$500 bail.