

Tense Civil War Situation Inspired Maryland's Song

Gov. J. Millard Tawes has proclaimed the period Jan. 1 through Jan. 7, as James Ryder Randall Week, in honor of the author of "Maryland, My Maryland," the State song.

The proclamation urged the appropriate observance by schools, colleges, historical and patriotic societies and citizens throughout the state.

In compliance with the proclamation a number of patriotic groups in Maryland planned appropriate observance of the 123rd

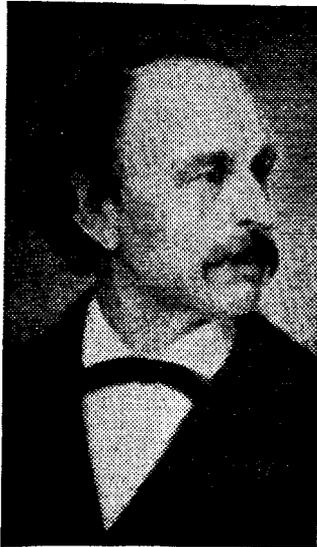
Walton, is displayed in the historical and flag room of the State House.

The proclamation points out that Maryland has been immortalized in song by the inspiring stanzas of "Maryland, My Maryland," composed in April 1861. It recalls that Randall, then 22, was at Poydras College, Louisiana, when he read a newspaper account of the conflict and fatalities in his native Baltimore on April 19, 1861, provoked by the passage of the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment through the city enroute to Washington, and that he was fully aware of the radical steps taken by the federal govern-

ment to suppress pro-Southern sympathies of the people of Baltimore.

"By a surge of intense feeling toward preserving the honor and rights of his native state, his home and friends, as guaranteed by the Constitution of 1787," the proclamation continues, "James Ryder Randall, during a sleepless night, was moved to compose an appeal to the Old Line State—a challenge to arms—in the stirring lines of "My Maryland."

It points out that "Maryland, My Maryland," acclaimed as the State song since its inception and destined for world-wide fame, was formally adopted and legalized by the 1939 Legislature.



JAMES RYDER RANDALL

anniversary of the birth of Randall. Randall was born in Baltimore on Jan. 1, 1839.

An oil painting of Randall, by the Annapolis artist Katherine