

MARYLAND  
IN  
NATIONAL POLITICS

FROM  
CHARLES CARROLL  
TO  
ALBERT C. RITCHIE

By J. FREDERICK ESSARY

*Author: Covering Washington, Washington Sketch Book,  
Reverse English, Life of Isidor Rayner, Your War  
Taxes, Ships (with B. N. Baker)*



SECOND EDITION

JOHN MURPHY COMPANY  
PUBLISHERS

BALTIMORE

MARYLAND

1932

has been preserved in the "Documentary History of the Constitution," compiled by the Department of State at Washington. This act is as follows:

*May 26, 1787*

*"Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,*  
That the Honorable James McHenry, ~~James McHenry~~  
~~James McHenry~~ Daniel Carroll, James Francis Mercer  
and Luther Martin, Esquires, be appointed and author-  
ized on behalf of this State, to meet such deputies as  
may be appointed and authorized by any other of the  
United States to assemble in convention at Philadelphia  
for the purpose of revising the Federal system and to  
join with them in considering such alterations and fur-  
ther provisions as may be necessary to render the Fed-  
eral Constitution adequate to the exigencies of the  
Union and in reporting such act for that purpose to the  
United States in Congress Assembled as, when agreed  
to by them, and duly confirmed by the several States,  
will effectually provide for the same, and the said depu-  
ties or such of them as shall attend the said convention  
shall have full power to represent this State, for the  
purpose aforesaid, and the said deputies are hereby  
directed to report the proceedings of said convention  
and any act agreed to therein to the next session of the  
General Assembly of this State."

The two ablest men in this delegation were McHenry and Martin. McHenry was not as profound a lawyer as was his colleague, but he had had wide experience in colonial affairs, in the army, and latterly in the Continental Congress. Moreover, he had as great a personal following in Maryland as

erations we kept steadily in view that which appears to us the greatest of every true American—the consolidation of our Union, in which is involved our prosperity, felicity, safety and perhaps our national existence. This important consideration, seriously and deeply impressed upon our minds, led each State in the convention to be less rigid on points of inferior magnitude than might have been otherwise expected. And thus the Constitution which we now present is the result of the spirit of amity, and of that mutual deference and concession, which the peculiarity of our political situation rendered indispensable.”

McHenry returned immediately to Annapolis and took up the fight for the ratification by his State of the new Constitution. On the first of April, 1788, the day fixed by the General Assembly for the State convention, that body assembled. Not until April 22, however, did the convention proceed to a vote. And in the minutes of that day there appeared this line: “Mr. James McHenry, a delegate returned from Baltimore Town, appeared and took his seat in the Convention.” Led by this Baltimorean and by ~~James~~ and Mercer, the convention overwhelmingly moved to ratify the Constitution. It had been adopted previously by Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut and Massachusetts, in the order named. After Maryland, came South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North