

New York, May 29, 1857.

The New Painting for the Capitol of Maryland—Washington Resigning his Commission in the Senate Chamber at Annapolis—An Original Design

The committee of the Legislature of Maryland, of which Senator Hoffman, of Baltimore, is chairman, have recently contracted with Mr. Edwin White, of this city, for the painting of the great historical picture of *Washington Resigning his Commission*, for which the legislature of 1836, on the anniversary of his birth, appropriated \$3,000. Many of the leading artists of the country, who had been invited to undertake the work, were indisposed to contract for it, the limited compensation offered not being considered a sufficient inducement for them to abandon the more lucrative business which they are at present enjoying. Mr. White, who already possesses a high artistic reputation, has consented to undertake the work more from a desire to increase his renown, than from motives of pecuniary reward. He has executed an original design, which has met the approval of the committee, and has also secured photographs of the best portraits of the contemporary historical characters whom he designs to introduce into the picture. Mr. White proposes to devote himself exclusively to the work, and will execute the painting in Paris. He is to leave New York for that purpose before the close of the present month. The writer has been permitted, while visiting New York, to glance at the outline sketch and design which Mr. White has made, of this great event, and must confess to his admiration of the grouping of the figures and the design generally. The depiction of the old continental soldier who is paying with much mingled respect and devotion upon his chief, as he surrenders his trust, is a striking feature of the picture which is particularly striking. The few progenitors of the old Maryland families who are introduced into the picture, are fully worthy of the proud place they occupy. The sketch, however, is yet imperfectly executed, and will probably be considerably modified ere the painting is completed.

Mr. White will no doubt enjoy increased facilities for the execution of his work in Paris, and will perhaps avail himself of the criticisms and suggestions of the best artists of Europe, who frequent that great capital of art. He engages in the task with his whole soul absorbed in his picture, and our State will no doubt receive a painting from his hands which will be as gratifying to its pride as to its patriotism. Mr. White has given bond for the completion of the work in two years. He receives \$1,000 in advance, \$1,000 at the end of a year, and \$1,000 upon the completion of the picture. He is, I understand, further stimulated by the promise, that if the painting shall prove to be of eminent merit, that an effort will be made to obtain for him an additional compensation of \$2,000, which will then be less than the amount usually paid for a painting of that class.

The citizens of Maryland are to be congratulated upon this patriotic action of their legislature. It was eminently fitting and proper that this heroic scene, having been enacted upon the soil of Maryland, and in the Senate Chamber of her Capitol, should be commemorated upon the spot thus consecrated, and illustrated and perpetuated by the highest efforts of art.

J. W.