

quisite, and the contract now proposed may, in due proportions, ensue to the benefit of all whom it may be found expedient to employ.

In the meantime, I propose to the Executive, to undertake the execution of the entire work, devoting to it my exclusive attention, and suggest the sum of thirty thousand dollars as a compensation reasonable and proper for the whole work, (including his expenses for clerk hire and stationary) to be paid to the director, or to his order in favor of persons appointed by the Executive, to whom he may assign portions of the work, having first agreed with them, as to their proper shares or rates of compensation.

That part of that sum, viz, three thousand dollars be so paid annually in quarterly payments, until the entire manuscript be delivered to the Executive; and immediately thereafter, the residue of the said sum of thirty thousand dollars: but that not more than fifteen thousand dollars shall be paid before completion and delivery of the whole manuscript.

That the works and communications of former revisors, three complete copies of the laws of Maryland, the revised codes of Virginia, New York and Massachusetts, be provided for and delivered to the director.

And I respectfully ask that if these terms be considered reasonable and proper, it may be so noted in the record of your proceedings and a copy of this communication with a certificate of assent forwarded to me.

I am aware that the committee of ways and means, at the last session of the legislature, taking a fair view of the labors and sacrifices necessary to the prosecution and accomplishment of this work, estimated its cost at forty thousand dollars, and that by many others, even that sum has been deemed altogether inadequate. I have judged differently, and if encouraged by your decision shall go forward faithfully and cheerfully in the discharge of the duty with which you have honored

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOSEPH I. MERRICK.

*Extract of a letter from Joseph I. Merrick Esquire, to His Excellency Governor Veazey.*

Dated August 6th 1837.

"May I ask the favor of you and your honorable Council now to refer to my letter submitted at your last meeting and to decide upon it.

I have thrown myself out of business, in order to execute my great task faithfully and satisfactorily, but I have concluded that I had better do nothing, than be at the mercy of those who may hereafter occupy your places. Of late years such doctrines are promulged, that even he to whom the public faith is plighted, is not too sure of justice; and without some definite arrangement, my labor or a new might very possibly win for me nothing but insult.