

WASHINGTON, December 19, 1823.

Sir,—I had the honor this morning to receive your letter of this date, enclosing copy of a preamble and resolution adopted by the Legislature of Maryland at its present session, the same shall receive my respectful consideration.

I remain very respectfully, sir, your most obt. servt.
To NINIAN PINKNEY, Esq. Council Chamber.

ISAAC M'KIM.

WASHINGTON, 19th Dec. 1823—9 o'clock, P. M.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter this day by the messenger, covering a preamble and resolution adopted by the General Assembly. And have the honor to be, with high respect, your obt. servt.

S. SMITH.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20, 1823.

SIR—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th inst. together with the preamble and resolutions adopted by the legislature of Maryland at its present session respecting congressional caucuses. The object of these resolutions will be duly considered.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obt. servant,

RAPHAEL NEALE.

Ninian Pinkney, Esq.

WASHINGTON CITY, December 19, 1823.

Dear Sir—Your letter by order of the executive council, enclosing a preamble and resolutions from the legislature of Maryland, instructing the senators and representatives of Maryland in congress to use their influence to prevent a congressional caucus nomination of president and vice president of the United States, has been received this night at 10 o'clock, by your express Mr. Thompson. With very great respect for the legislature and the executive council, I am, &c.

GEO. E. MITCHELL.

Ninian Pinkney Clerk of the Council.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31, 1823.

DEAR SIR—Do me the honor to communicate the inclosed, in such manner as you may deem most expedient to both branches of our legislature. With high respect and esteem, your obedient servant,

EDWARD LLOYD.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31, 1823.

TO GOVERNOR STEVENS.

DEAR SIR—I have had the honor to receive from the executive council the preambles and resolution adopted by the legislature of Maryland on the subject of congressional caucus, in which the senators and representatives are "requested to use their influence to prevent the same."

To the voice of the people of Maryland, when fairly and legitimately expressed, I shall always listen with interest, and shall *never fail* to feel for it the most profound respect, and in my legislative capacity I will represent *the wishes of the people*, or resign the duties of a station in which I have been placed by their confidence and kindness; but sir, I have too high a respect for the Legislature of Maryland to suppose, that this resolution is intended by them, to have the force of a legislative instruction. They know too well, I am sure, their own powers, and respect too highly the rights of others, to usurp the authority of depriving me of the privilege secured to every citizen of the state; to wit:—the privilege of taking an open, and an honest part in the election of the chief magistrate of the Republic.

On the question of congressional caucus, I humbly conceive that the members of congress as the representatives of the people, hold co-equal, & co-ordinate powers with the members of state legislatures; but, considering this a question between the people of Maryland, and the people of the union; and not between me and the legislature, I shall only observe—That if a congressional recommendation be made, *the power and right* of deciding on its expediency, and the merit of the recommended candidate will still remain *where it always should be, in the hands of the people of the union* and the people of Maryland will have to decide, on the policy of harmonising with the majority of the union, and thereby securing to the state her due and relative weight in the public councils of the nation, or of sacrificing these advantages at the shrine of personal predilection. If no congressional recommendation be made, in all probability, the state and the union will be convulsed by a contested election *for men and not for principles*, an event sincerely to be deprecated by every friend of civil liberty. Permit me sir, through you to inform the legislature, that as a representative of the state, I shall *cheerfully, promptly and honestly* co-operate with them in the discharge of our *public and legitimate functions*; that to the *will of the people* I shall always yield *with due submission*, but in my *private capacity* I must claim the exercise of those rights which are secured to me by the *laws and constitution* of my country.

I present to you, sir, and through you to the legislature, my considerations of high respect,

EDW. LLOYD.

The house adjourns until Monday morning 9 o'clock.

MONDAY, January 5, 1824.

The house met. Present the same members as on Saturday. The proceedings of Saturday were read.

Mr. Fisher presents a petition from sundry inhabitants of the town of Westminster, praying for the repeal of the act of November session, 1797, chapter 47; referred to Messrs Fisher, Cromwell and Turbutt.