

The Agent of the state then at the city of Washington was informed that it was impracticable to enter on an examination of the vouchers and proceed to the settlement of the claim, during the continuance of the session of Congress. He therefore urged the appointment of a time when this cause of delay should not exist. Finding, in July, the officers of the War Department still so much engaged, that it was, as they alleged, wholly impracticable to take up the Maryland claim, the agent repeated a proposal which he had made very early to the Secretary of the War Department, to make an advance to the state on account of the claim which had been assumed. To this the Secretary assented in August; but on examination of the appropriation to pay the states such balances as might be found due to them, he limited the amount to forty thousand Dollars. This sum has accordingly been received and deposited in the state treasury.

We should have had great satisfaction in stating the final settlement of this account; but the engagements in the war office are stated still to continue, and the claims of other states which are just in the order of assumption, not yet finally adjusted. The justice, however, of the general government, will no doubt make provision for the speedy settlement of the debt: and the same zeal, attention, and ability on the part of the agent, which has hitherto explained and enforced the justice of the claim, will no doubt continue to present its merits in such a favorable view, that no unnecessary or unavoidable delays will procrastinate its final adjustment.

The right to subscribe for a certain number of shares reserved to the state in the Marine Bank of Baltimore, has been purchased out by the bank at an advance of ten per centum. The same right to subscribe for a certain number of shares in the Union Bank of Maryland, was sold by the Treasurer to Thomas Fairfax, esquire, of Virginia, who paid the advance into the state treasury. Upon application, however, of Mr Fairfax to the bank, to permit him to subscribe for the shares, the bank refused; alleging, that although the state had a right to subscribe for, and then dispose of the shares, yet it had no right to dispose of the mere right to subscribe. The case has been submitted to the attorney general, with directions to institute such legal process as may compel the bank to do speedy justice. In the mean time copies of the correspondence between the Treasurer and the officers of the bank are transmitted, in order that the case of Mr Fairfax who still remains deprived of the valuable consideration for which he has paid to the state the advance of ten per cent, may be fully taken into view, and such measures adopted for his relief, as may seem best to the wisdom of the honorable the general Assembly.

The finances of the state not being under the control of this department, a statement of their situation will be laid before you by the Treasurer. Of the sum which he was authorized to borrow under the advice of the executive, only twenty thousand dollars have been wanted.

Several communications are transmitted from the Governors of different sister states, proposing alterations in answer to proposed alterations of the Constitution of the United States; also three copies each of the laws of New Hampshire and New York. Three sets of Waite's edition of state papers have been also received from the Department of state under a resolution of Congress, one for the use of the executive, and one for each branch of