

from Harrisburg, your letter of the 16th inst. did not reach me until yesterday.

I regret very much that any difference of opinion should exist between us, as to the actual position of the negotiation, with which I have the honor to be entrusted by the Executive of Maryland, even though such difference should be, as I think it is, wholly immaterial in its consequences. It is true that in my note to you of the 14th inst., I assumed that the negotiation had been actually opened, and was therefore necessarily pending, as I believed I had a right to do, after the official reception given to me in my representative character, the full disclosure made of the several objects of my mission, and the conferences which followed, both with His Excellency, Governor Ritner, and yourself. But I beg you to be assured that the fact, as I supposed it to be understood between us, was not stated to remind you of any obligation that I may have thought it devolved upon Pennsylvania, because the very high respect I have always cherished for that State could never have allowed me to anticipate the slightest possibility of any violation of the amity which ought to exist between sovereign States, members of the same great confederacy: and because in my judgment the obligation on the part of Pennsylvania if any such can be inferred, to await the issue of the mission, so far as concerns the particular case which originated it, was as perfect when the Commissioner from Maryland was accredited, as it can be in any subsequent stage of the negotiation.

With regard to the other topic noticed in your letter, referring to that of the 14th inst., I was certainly led to believe that it was Governor Ritner's intention to introduce the subject to the notice of the Legislature in his next annual message. The passage in that letter to which I particularly allude is the following: "Should you come to the conclusion not to broach the subject of your mission to the Legislature at its present session and should it meet the views of your State and suit your own convenience to visit Harrisburg at the commencement of the next session, which will be on the first Tuesday of December 1838, I am directed to inform you that the Governor will then bring the matter fully before the Legislature for its deliberate and final action." If I misconceived the import of this language, as it appears I did, I have only now to say, that either course which His Excellency may think proper to adopt for the purpose of bringing the subject before the Legislature at the period mentioned, whether in his annual message, or by a special message,