

TREASURER'S OFFICE,

ANNAPOLIS, May 13th, 1853.

*To the Honorable, the*

*Speaker of the House of Delegates :*

Unwilling at all times to appear publicly in matters of controversy, I am the more so at this time, inasmuch as the subject to which I find it necessary to allude, is now before the proper tribunals of the State for adjudication. Hitherto I have refrained, and still intend to refrain, so far as a proper regard for self-respect will permit, from any expressions of opinion personal to myself, as to the propriety of the claim now endeavored to be sustained by the late Comptroller for salary against the State of Maryland. Nor would I at the present trouble you with one word, but for the apprehension, (now to some extent realized,) that my course in this matter has been by some, whose good opinions I covet, not only misunderstood but misrepresented. So long as the letter of the late Comptroller was confined to your archives, I was content that your committee on the Judiciary to whom it had been referred should have the whole subject solely in charge. Satisfied to await their arbitrament, I could not have, nor have I now, any anxiety as to the result—but the recent publication of that letter, in one, if not other of the newspapers in the city of Baltimore, with certain editorial remarks coupled therewith, seem, in the judgment of gentlemen in whose good sense I have great confidence, to make it proper that I should take some notice of it. I proceed now to do so.

With the late Comptroller's reasons why he should be paid salary from the day of his election as given in his letter, I have at present naught to do. It would have given me pleasure to have gratified him, could I have found any authority for my so doing. I paid him the amount, every cent, that was specifically appropriated to him, (not appropriated by me, but appropriated by a solemn Act of the Legislature—an Act which he, in accordance with the wishes of the chairman of the committee of Ways and Means, drew up and prepared in his office.) I allude to the Act, (chapter one hundred and nineteen, of January session, 1852,) entitled "An Act, making appropriations for the support of Government for the present year"—which, among other things, declares, "that for the support of Government, for the present year, ending on the first day of January, eighteen hundred and fifty-three, including the expense of the several Departments and Offices, the following sums of money, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be and the same are hereby appropriated, that is to