

M E M O R I A L .

To the Honorable Oliver Miller,

Speaker of the House of Delegates of Maryland:

The visitors and governors of St. John's College, in obedience to the order of your Honorable Body of the 7th instant, have had prepared their responses to the inquiries therein, which are herewith submitted with the annexed papers. They have to regret the delays which have necessarily taken place in discharging this duty. They beg leave also to submit herewith a brief sketch of the history, condition and prospects of the college.

This college was founded in the year 1784, by the donations of the citizens of Maryland, paid into the Treasury of the State for the benefit of the college, to the amount of thirty-two thousand dollars, on the express contract by the State to grant them their charter, (1784, ch. 37,) about four acres of confiscated ground in Annapolis, and "annually and forever," in the very words of the nineteenth section, the sum of £1,750 (\$4,667,) for the payment of the salaries of the Principal, Vice Principal, Professors and tutors.

Thus established and built by the money of the individual donors, the State from 1784 till 1805, executed its part of the contract, by paying the annuity for the salaries of the professors.

In that year by the resolution 1805, chapter 85, the State undertook to repeal this part of the charter granting the annuity, thereby violating the contract and depriving the college of the means devoted to the payment of the professors.

This very point is expressly decided by the Court of Appeals in 15 Maryland Reports 330, in a cause between the college and the State, the court holding that this resolution of 1805, chapter 85, violated the Constitution of the United States, by attempting to impair the obligation of this contract in the charter and was therefore void.

The General Assembly in 1812 and 1832, restored part of this annuity, equal to \$1,000, and then increased it to \$3,000 by resolutions 1811, No. 38 and 1832, No. 41, which latter