

⁴⁸From 1811 to 1849 the *Niles' Weekly Register* published reports, debates, election returns and information pertaining to the nation's and Maryland's political situation. The publication's founder, Hezekiah Niles, was an astute political observer who is credited with helping to bring about the demise of the Congressional caucus system for nominating presidential candidates. In 1820, he editorialized for the direct election of President by popular vote in the November 25th issue, Vol. 19, page 195. A complete set of this important reference is available in the Maryland Room of the Enoch Pratt Library in Baltimore, Maryland. The significance of this early American journal is documented in Norval Neil Luxon, *Niles' Weekly Register: "News Magazine of the Nineteenth Century,"* (Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana State University Press, 1947).

⁴⁹*Niles Weekly Register*, November 11, 1820, Vol. 19, p. 169.

⁵⁰*Maryland Gazette* (Annapolis), October 19, 1820.

⁵¹The recalcitrant elector was William Plumer, a former U.S. Senator and Governor from New Hampshire who cast his vote for John Quincy Adams. It is widely reported that this wayward vote was made to preserve George Washington's honor as the only unanimously selected President. In fact, Plumer had long been a critic of Monroe and in his personal papers explains his vote without mentioning Washington and by listing specific complaints against the incumbent. The more accurate version of this isolated vote is given by Lynn W. Turner, "Elections of 1816 and 1820," in *History of American Presidential Elections*, Vol. I, pp. 316-319, 341-343.