

## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

Annapolis, June 10th, 1875.

GENTLEMEN:—Yours of the 8th inst. has been carefully considered by me. I am not surprised to find, that you are reluctant to accept the position of counsel to represent the State of Maryland, before the arbitrators selected to ascertain and fix the boundary line between the States of Virginia and Maryland, without first having some positive agreement as to the compensation hereafter to be allowed you by our State which would relieve you from “the humiliation of standing at the legislative doors, chaffering for a fee.” I am fully aware that the proper preparation of the State’s case for presentation before the arbitrators is likely to require of you much laborious research, and that much time will probably be consumed, and heavy personal expenses incurred by you, in attending, until the whole case of each State has been fully before them, the meetings of the arbitrators (which it is safe to assume, will be held in some place or places, other than Baltimore;) and I was largely influenced in my determination to tender to you the position of counsel, before the arbitrators, by my knowledge that if you accepted that important and honorable trust, you would ably maintain every just claim of our State, regardless of the labor, loss of time and personal expense to which you would be subjected in resisting the enlarged demands of the State of Virginia. In view, therefore, of the importance of the questions to be passed upon by the arbitrators, and of the time and labor, which must necessarily be expended in properly preparing them for presentation, and in presenting them to the arbitrators.

I think, that the fee of five thousand dollars, (\$5,000) each, which you suggest, is a reasonable one, and while I am unwilling, in view of the provisions of the Act of 1874, chapter 295, to enter into any formal contract with you, by which I might seem to endeavor to forestall the action of the Legislature, I unhesitatingly promise, if you accept the position tendered, and discharge the duties incident thereto, to recommend to the Legislature the payment of that sum, as a reasonable amount for the services, loss of time and expenses incurred by you in the discharge of said duties. Hoping that you will not longer hesitate to accept the trust tendered you.

I am, gentlemen, very truly,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES B. GROOME.

Which was read and referred to the Joint Committee on Boundary Line.