

Annapolis 14 Feb. 1894

Hon. Thomas S.G. Hayes
Chairman Senate Finance Committee

My dear Sir,

Averse as I am to egotism I feel it due to myself to state my rank as an artist.

I have received the medal and diploma of the Centennial Exposition, Philadelphia 1876 for figure painting the jury composed of European and American experts. Also three medals from the Maryland Institute. During a residence of seven years in Paris I was the pupil of Gleyne, the leader of the Classical School, and of G. Brion who received the Grand medal of Honor and was officer of the Legion of Honor and was officer of the Legion of Honor; and my paintings were awarded admission to four "salons" or Expositions by the Jury composed of the first artists of France chosen to decide upon the oversight of works of art. Both Monsieurs[?] and Couture, strangers to me, called attention to my work by their favorable commendation. One of their pictures were published in Paris and reproduced in London and New York as an engraving. Most of my work has been engraved and the originals are in the private galleries of Paris, London, New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, Baltimore, San Francisco, and Cincinnati. I the Museum of Cincinnati is a life size portrait of Cecilius Calvert, and other works in the Peabody and Corcoran galleries. A large picture of the Founders of the B&O R.R. is in the Directors room of the Company and seventeen drawings by me illustrate the Sesqui-Centennial memorial volume of the city of Baltimore. I have contributed to [?], the Century, and to Harper's Magazine. Many illustrated articles teaching of Maryland life and history.

The picture of the "Planting of the Colony of Maryland" is the most important work I have done and while [?] over the years in actual execution, [?] [?] the study of a life. As a native of Baltimore and a Marylander I feel a pride in placing it in the State House where, apart from whatever artistic merit it has, it may serve as an object-lesson or open book were can be read at a glance that which on account of verbal description can convey, that is to say, the actual appearance of the first settler and founders of our state, while it also recalls one of the most important events in the world's history, the first recognition of religious toleration and free conscience as a fundamental principal of government. Maryland should be proud that this significant act and that expressing the supremacy of the civil over the military power through Washington's resignation, took place within their state.

I have no hesitation in submitting my work to the judgment of any competent tribunal but I mainly claim that its purpose has been realized by its general appreciation by our people and the intelligent interest it has elicited from all classes including the extremes of cultural learning and intuitive perception.

As to the commercial value of the work I can cite no higher authority in cost-values than Messrs. Avery & Fraser and their judgment in sustained by others of equal reputation.

Very respectfully yours,
Frank B. Mayer