

Annual Message shall be brought in for improving the revenue from imports, to enable the proprietors of iron-foundries, salt works and manufacturing establishments to make a larger profit on their investments.

Measures of defence against a naval power are perhaps of more importance to Maryland than to any State in the Union. A hostile fleet having possession of the Chesapeake Bay, might cut off the whole of our trade, destroy our villages, and lay waste a large portion of the State. It would be impossible to guard every part of our shores, and while our forces were preparing to defend some particular spot, the enemy might land in a different direction, plunder a whole neighborhood, and return in safety to their ships. The injury would not be confined to Maryland, or to the States bordering on the Chesapeake. The inland trade between the northern and southern States would be interrupted, the produce of a large portion of the country would be deprived of its most convenient outlet, the militia of the neighbouring States would be continually called from their homes, and the enemy after drawing the attention of the government from other points might make an unsuspected attack in some distant quarter of the Union. This is not merely a supposition of what may possibly happen, but a description of what actually occurred during the last war. These evils, and the disgrace attending them may be avoided by having in addition to our regular naval force, a sufficient number of steam frigates to guard the Chesapeake Bay. In case of war, they might be stationed in Hampton Roads, where they would be ready to meet an enemy at the capes, or assist in defending the fortifications of Old Point. They might follow a superior fleet, if their own force was greater than that of the steam vessels which accompanied it, might watch its movements, prevent it from landing troops or ascending our rivers, and cut off all communication with the sea. But the probability is, that a fleet would not advance far into the bay, or attempt to occupy a permanent position in our waters, which we had a strong disposable force to check its operations, and take advantage of any accident or disaster that might befall it. In calling the attention of the Legislature to this subject, I wish to be understood as only claiming for Maryland, that protection and defence which it is the duty of the general government to extend to every State in the Union.

Wm. Grason

December 30th

The Governor sent the following nominations to the Senate:

Louis Cassaway to be Register in Chancery vice Ramsay, Waters deceased.

Daniel B. Locher to be Register of wills of Allegany County vice