

not failed to excite the strongest solitudes - a sensibility will be felt here from this disappointment, proportioned to the sanguine expectations of success, which the communicated progress of the Diplomatic Agency has from time to time excited; and its failure at the moment of its expected completion, from the inconsistency of a foreign Nation, may give rise to conclusions unfavorable to the Administration of our own.

Under these impressions, the Executive of Maryland feel an unimpaired confidence, that the Government of the Union will never abandon this Claim of their State, more especially if they consider that the loss of time consumed in this Negotiation, although a serious disadvantage, is of little moment when compared to that of the favorable conjunctures which have passed away, never probably to recur - The one when the pressure of a foreign War so formidable as to threaten the national existence of Great Britain, and which rendered highly desirable every amicable adjustment of differences which might insure her Enmity; has now succeeded the security and confidence of a general peace - The other when Motives of prudence as well as honour which gave pointed force to the Claims of this State on the British Government, which they were urging against us, the doubtful demands of their own litigions, are now or will be silenced by complete success on their part - With what prospects, under these circumstances, may we be permitted to ask, will the State of Maryland re-appear in British Courts of Justice with the implied discountenance of their Government and the manifest aversion of our own?

The Executive of Maryland cannot for a Moment indulge the belief that the President will ever consent to the abandonment of a Claim, the justice of which he so strongly urged when placed in the Department you now fill.

Permit me to solicit your serious attention to the foregoing general considerations, and to refer you to the particular observations made by Mr. Chase, in his letter to this Executive, extracts from which I do myself the honour to enclose, and receive the assurances of the profound respect with which I am your Obedient Servant

The Honble James Madison  
Secretary of the United States

John F. Mercer