

relative to the Bank Stock of Maryland.

The Honble the General Assembly

We have the honor to be
John F. Mercer

In Council January 5. 1803

Sir,

The Legislature of this State having adopted the enclosed Resolution relative to the Bank Stock, it would have been satisfactory to this Executive, to have conferred personally with you, as the Agent to whom care and talents this Interest has been particularly committed; previously to their giving a definite form to their application to the President of the United States.

Although under existing circumstances, the precise propositions that shall be ultimately submitted to the Executive of the United States will necessarily depend much on the result of some previous verbal communication: yet to enable this Executive to suggest and the President to decide on such measures as might be deemed necessary, a succinct narrative of the origin and progress of the Claim, confined to the most prominent events and dates ought to be prepared. This Executive are not furnished with the Documents necessary to complete any satisfactory statement; moreover the long and intimate acquaintance with the subject, your close attention to its progress and above all your talents and legal knowledge render you peculiarly qualified to execute this task.

This Executive are disposed to receive with the most favorable attention any additional remarks which your judgment may suggest as either useful or necessary in pursuing their primary object - which is to open a direct communication between the Government of the United States and that of Great Britain confined to this subject alone, in which it shall no longer be exposed to those casualties which almost invariably attend the subordinate or incidental objects of a negotiation. With assurances of perfect respect, I have the honor to be &c.

The Honble Samuel Chase
Baltimore

John F. Mercer

Council Chamber Annapolis January 15. 1803

Sir,

As early as the 10th of November last I handed to the Legislature of Maryland, the letter your Excellency addressed to me of the 25 of October, perusing together with its inclosures; their deliberations on the subject have finally resulted in the Resolutions I have now the honor to transmit, the date of which will, I hope, explain and apologize for the delay of my reply.