

Council Chamber Annapolis June 4 1803

Sir,

I have just received a letter from Mr. Samuel Chase, who informs me that he had that moment one from Mr. Pinkney dated the 10. of April, covering a copy of the Lord Chancellors order of the first of April dismissing the Bill of the apogues of the State of Maryland, on which occasion the Chancellor stated as the ground of dismissal that the King was entitled to the stocks bona vacantia in right of his crown adding that there was no such body as the old Government of Maryland. Mr. Chase by mistake does not inclose the copy of the order and it does not appear from his letter that the accountant is yet directed to transfer any of the funds.

Mr. Chase adds that Mr. Clapham the agent of the apogues of the State has received a letter from his father which mentions that the Hamburg would shortly receive their money, and that the balance would be paid to the agent of the State of Maryland.

In this critical situation we wait with anxious expectation for farther intelligence which cannot fail of being decisive, if Sir you have any information from Mr. King on the subject, or should shortly receive such, the communication cannot fail of being highly interesting to this Executive.

The Honble James Madison
Secretary of State

I have the honor to
John F. Mercer

Council Chamber Annapolis July 7 1803

Sir

I have directed Mr. Pinkney to forward to you a copy of the communications I have lately received from Mr. King agreeably to your desire - as also to add a part of the Instructions to Mr. William Pinkney, heretofore given by the President of the United States.

I have no doubt that the Council would wish to have your sentiments whether these Instructions confer powers sufficiently explicit and extensive to accomplish the object you have in view as well as that suggested by Mr. King.

If further instructions should be deemed necessary it might be advisable to consider well how far any public functionary of Maryland could countenance the doctrine contained in the related opinion of the Chancellor of England.

The Honble Samuel Chase

I have the honor to
John F. Mercer