

In Council Annapolis December 1816

I have the honor to transmit to you the enclosed Certificate of the Election of Members of Congress for this State.
I have &c.
The Honorable James Madison
Charles Redgely of

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Gentlemen

We have the honor to inform you that in pursuance of the powers vested in this Department by a Resolution of the last General Assembly, we have ceded to the General Government the exclusive right of jurisdiction in and over the Ground and Territory in which Forts Mifflin and Washington are erected. The Resolution appropriating the sum of five hundred dollars to defray the expense of collecting the public Arms, being found to be wholly inadequate to the object, we have thought it advisable to refer the subject to your consideration. The Resolution appropriating Money for the purchase of Arms having been rescinded by the last General Assembly, we are under the necessity of referring to you the claim of Mr. Joseph Henry, for Rifles, delivered since the repeal of the Resolution under a contract entered into during its existence with this Department. We herewith enclose sundry Resolutions from the States of Massachusetts Ohio Rhode Island Vermont Virginia and Tennessee. We would submit to your consideration the propriety of taking steps for liquidating at an early day the States claim against the General Government for the expenses incurred by the late War. For this purpose it will be necessary to appoint an Agent, to appear and attend to the settlement of these claims. We deem it of primary importance that this subject should receive your early attention, as it must be within the recollection of the General Assembly that the revenue of the State was found to be insufficient for the discharge of Military claims and expenses, and that recourse was had to a loan to meet extraordinary disbursements rendered necessary for defence. It is hoped that the claim against the General Government will receive the attention due to it from Congress, and that the provision which they shall make for its payment, will furnish the means of redeeming this loan. Should this just expectation fail it will be with the wisdom of the General Assembly to provide the necessary means for its redemption. We deem it to be our duty to bring to the notice of the General Assembly the situation of the claims of the State against individuals. By former Resolutions the Executive was authorized to take whatever steps were deemed necessary, in order to recover and secure them. For obvious reasons it is impossible for this Department to attend to this duty, and for want of proper