

My Dear Sir

Council Chamber, Annapolis
January 18 1820.

I received your letter of the 12th Inst, and thank you for the kind notice that you have been pleased to take of mine. At the time that I wrote to you, the objections of Mr. Hagner to passing the account for the full amount had not reached me, and of course the objections that I stated he would make, were merely anticipated. The abstract which he has made out is now in my possession, and his objections appear upon it. The suspended items amount to upwards of \$16,000 and the rejected part to upwards of \$16,000. I have the satisfaction to be able to tell you, that the account as made out by me is as perfect as you or I could have wished, so far as it depended on me. No objection has been made to it on that score. I could not make Vouchers more perfect than they were when the Executive acted on them. They were however passed by regular accounting officers appointed by the Government before they came to this Department for settlement. If from ignorance the contractors did not know that it was important to preserve the orders for the delivery of the Rations it would have been probably unjust in the Executive to have rejected their accounts on that ground when they were quite sure that the contractors had faithfully furnished them. I have however been able with much trouble to voucher about \$30,000 of the account as it regards the contractors and I think in the course of a short time when I shall have a little more leisure to be able to voucher 20,000 dollars more. Knowing that a few hints may make up of a quality equal to them.