

our sister states by the means of creating and increasing the facilities of navigation, and transportation by land, and by calling into action all these physical advantages, are endeavouring to draw within their bosoms the wealth of the extremities of the union, we ought not to be ungrateful of the great benefits which are to be derived from the adoption of such a policy. As connected with this consideration, we take the liberty of calling the attention of the general Assembly to a subject of great importance to the interest of our state. It is generally understood to be in the contemplation of the government of the United States, to establish at this place, a depot for provisions and other articles necessary for naval purposes; this alone would be of great benefit and importance, if not to the whole, certainly to a very large portion of our state, by opening an additional market for vending such articles as the public wants might require: but if an object of still higher importance, which has for some time occupied the public mind, could be obtained; if the constituted authorities of the union should deem this a proper place for the establishment of a naval depot, where our ships and vessels of war would rendezvous when wanting repairs, or not engaged in actual service, or on foreign voyages, it would be to our interest and prosperity a great and splendid acquisition, which so far from being local in its effects, would be sensibly felt in every vein and artery of our state. Under this impression, the legislature a session or two since, authorized the expenditure of twenty five thousand dollars, for the purpose of removing an impediment to the entrance into Severn River, arising from a bar which has been formed some little distance from its mouth. The restriction imposed upon the Executive in this resolution, is of such a nature, as to prevent any measures being taken, towards the accomplishment of this important object, until such assurances are received in relation to the establishment of a naval depot, at this place, on the event of the bar being removed, as perhaps, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to obtain. Whether this restriction ought to be qualified, or altogether removed, or what other measures upon this subject should be adopted, it is submitted to the better judgment of the Legislature to determine. We will only add, that in the execution of this important duty, and every other trust, committed to our care, we have done what in our judgments we conceived to be best calculated to conserve the general interest of the state, - and if the course which has been pursued should not meet the approbation and sanction of all, the only merit we presume to claim, is the credit of having acted with upright views and honest intentions.

The Portrait of the Father of his Country, and his Companions in arms, which adorns the Walls of the House of Delegates, having become considerably defaced by the hand of time, we employed Mr. Raphael Peale, who was then on a visit to this city, in the prosecution of his profession, to restore it, as far as was in the power of his