

be obvious to all. The speed of communication of Justice, especially in a commercial City,
is of the greatest consequence, in preventing her property and the delay inseparable from the
present arrangement of her civil tribunals, cannot but operate in many cases as a denial
of Justice. We are informed that every effort has been made by the Com^o Court in the
Docket on the adoption of the rules, which were considered and them in the despatches of
business and that their regular terms have been consistently extended as far as was prac-
ticable: that they have also acted as a kind of session of the Court, and have every year
continued them, until an adjournment was called for by the Clerk to enable him to prepare
his Docket for the ensuing term but that with all their efforts they have been unable
to reduce the Docket. Their statements receive confirmation from the annual returns
made by the Clerk of Baltimore County Court of the duration of the terms of the Court
and his report to the Legislature in conformity with a resolution passed at the last Session
is the most laborious and continued industry, while part of the Judges cannot reduce
the Docket to such a state that the suits can be tried at the regular trial
terms it will be for you to say whether some Legislation may not be necessary on this
subject.

We submit for your consideration a Letter and accompanying
pamphlet from the Honorable Edmund Smith, member of our Legislature in Congress upon
the subject of a claim on the United States for interest upon the money advanced
and expended by this State for its defence during the late war. We also
submit for your consideration copies of two Letters from the Honorable John
Lee of Kerr, late Agent of the State, to settle its claims on the United States,
by one of which he resigns his Agency in consequence of having been elected a
member of the House of Representatives. But you will perceive, that Mr
Kerr distinctly makes known his readiness to do any thing in his power
unofficially to effect a final settlement of the unliquidated claims of
the State. The zeal and ability displayed by Mr Kerr, whilst acting as
official Agent of the State, and the full knowledge acquired by him in that capacity
of the whole extent of her claims, connected with his present official station, seems
to point to him as the person to bring them to a final close, with the proper accounting
Officers of the United States, or if necessary, before Congress. You will further
discover by one of Mr Kerr's Letters that during the last winter, a communication
and a certain document of the Bill reported in favour of the Virginia claim
on this subject, were received from the Honorable Joseph Bond, a member of
the House of Representatives from this State, which were transmitted to Mr Kerr,
then the official Agent of the State. Having full confidence in the Justice
and impartiality of the constituted authorities of the General Government we
cannot enter into a doubt but that our claim will be admitted, and paid, as
soon as it is ascertained properly in the proper form as it rests upon principles
already recognized and acted on by them.

As some difficulty has arisen in the minds of the Executive
as to what are the duties of the Armours, we would respectfully suggest
the propriety of defining them by Law, and fixing their Salaries, with a just
relation thereto.

Permit me, Gentlemen, to tender you, the worthy representatives
of our fellow Citizens, my grateful acknowledgments for the honor which