

To Frederick A. Schley Esq.

State Department
Annapolis
February the 4th 1845

Dear Sir

You are aware that it will be incumbent on me to appoint a Chief Judge for the 8th Judicial District. I have determined to write to you my views frankly my views upon the subject, the difficulties which in my judgement surround the proper exercise of the appointing power. In the first place I am led to believe that no appointment would meet the public sanction, unless the person appointed would consent to reside in Alleghany County. I am fully aware that your position at the bar, and your high qualifications, entitle you to this place if it would be acceptable to you, I have therefore determined to say to you frankly that I shall have sincere pleasure in nominating you to the station, if it would be acceptable to you, and if you would consent to reside at Cumberland. Will you do me the favour to write me your views and wishes upon the subject. I know that you will appreciate the motives which have induced me to trouble you, and that you will favour me with an early and full exposition of your views & wishes upon the subject.

Thos G. Pratt

State Department
Annapolis March 1st 1845

To his Excellency
James H. Polk

President of the United States

I have the honor to transmit to your Excellency the enclosed resolutions which were unanimously passed by the Legislature of Maryland requesting the reinstatement of William S. Bell in the Naval Service of the United States. This manifestation of confidence in Mr. Bell on the part of his Native State will ensure to his claims the early and trust the favourable consideration of your Excellency.

With sentiments of respect

Your Obedt Servt

Thos G. Pratt

State Department

March 14th 1845

To Wm B. Tyler Esq.
Chas Frederick Esq. Esq.

Dr Sir

An application was presented to me last night by Mr. Buckley one of the Representatives from your County for the pardon of David Hargett convicted of the crime of perjury. The petition which is signed by a portion of the grand jury by the petit jury who found him guilty and by a number of respectable Gentlemen of Frederick, bases the application upon the former good character of Hargett, and the poverty of his family. The petition admits the correctness of the verdict and does not allege that there is any doubt of the guilt of the Petitioner, nor does it allege any mitigating circumstances which would authorize the Executive interposition. The application is manifestly the result