

most liberally and without compensation discharge on compen-  
sation, with all the duties devolved by your appointment. Which  
I hope you would manage to receive as fully as if retained: and if  
upon the case reaches the Court of Appeals, it is deemed desirable that  
I should take part in the argument there, and I am here, such an  
arrangement can readily be effected & will enable me to bear a part  
in that argument.

I have erred in making the above suggestion.  
You require me to state if to you, desire to accomplish in the  
most expedient manner, your laudable efforts to protect the interests of  
the State against the extraordinary and as it seems to me with the  
indefinite (I have) ungratifiable declaration of dividend.

I am with the highest respect

Your Obedt Servt  
J. V. Ashmun

Note. The Governor, replied to the above communication accepting Mr. Ashmun  
succession of public services as therein contained.

State of Maryland  
Executive Department  
Annapolis July 5<sup>th</sup> 1857

His Excellency

Sir,

You are hereby assigned as counsel on the part of the  
State to cooperate with the Hon. Gen. Nelson under the instructions  
contained in that gentleman's letter in the matter of the extra dividend  
recently declared by the directors of the Baltimore & Annapolis Railroad Company

E. Williams Esq  
Gov. of Md.

Appointment accepted in pr. letter on file of date 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1857

Washington April 4<sup>th</sup> 1857

Sir,

As soon as I received the account of the State against the  
U. S. you interest under the late Act of Congress, I laid it before the  
3<sup>rd</sup> Auditor with such explanatory remarks as the case required. Some  
subsequent interviews took place, at the last of which I read to him  
an argument a copy of which I send herewith, that you may see  
I am doing my duty. Please return it after reading (and having it  
replied if you choose for future reference) as I have no copy of my own  
to refer to it hereafter.

This morning my Auditor informed me that  
he did not wish to decide the case, but should transmit the papers  
with my argument a copy of which I left with him) to the Secretary  
of the Treasury. To this I cannot object, and am informed, moreover,  
that the latter is a good lawyer and a fair man. As so I do not see