

lect papers, laid my hand readily upon the enclosed, being your original engagement to me in behalf of the Baltimore and Ohio rail road and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company.

I lose no time in forwarding it to you. Although I boast not of such matters, I have never made of them a special secret.

You will lay the enclosed paper before the committee, if it will be useful in elucidation.

It was known I believe to every member of the legislature, that I was employed as counsel, by those companies; and that I was to receive compensation. I made thus much known to all with whom I conversed, including all the leading members of both houses. I did so, that they might be aware of the professional bias to which I was exposed. Beyond that *none* were informed, neither as to the *amount* of pay stipulated, nor whether certain or contingent.

I deemed it fair to announce that I was feed, but as to the amount of pay, I concluded that the two parties were adequate.

Some suspicious people have imagined that you participated in these fees, or are yet to partake.

I think you have letters enough of mine, calling in no very gentle manner, for my rights; but if desired, my oath is ready, that I always regarded and still regard all these fees as *exclusively* my own; have so used and still design to use them, without the participation of any person or persons whatever.

Whether the fees be or be not exorbitant is a matter which I shall not argue. Since the public scrutiny has been directed to the matter, every one must form his own judgment. I shall adhere to mine.

The reward is adequate to the service, being realised; but did not bear due relation to the protracted and arduous labors, the unpleasant character of the service, and the thousand chances of absolute failure.

I shall search for other letters and papers, but I have told you that I rarely preserve any except evidences of debt.

I cannot now come down, and unless the committee require, I hope I may not be called on to give attendance.

I found, &c., \* \* \* \* \*  
(being remarks about the sickness of his-family, are therefore omitted.)

Farewell. Your friend,  
J. J. MERRICK.

Hagerstown, February 23d, 1839.

By the contracts which I made with R. W. Kent and Philemon Chew, I agreed, as well as I now recollect, that each of them should be paid three thousand dollars in the event of success, and I intended that the canal company should pay one moiety of the same to each, and that the rail road company should pay the other moiety, as I did not doubt it would, notwithstanding I had exhausted the fund of ten thousand dollars originally placed by this