

zealous friends of John Purviance, I repaired with them to Annapolis, to advise his being appointed Judge to fill that office. We waited together on Gov. Thomas, and having severally made known our wishes in favor of that appointment, we took leave, and on the 6th May, 1833, when seated in our carriage and about to quit Annapolis, Mr. Thompson, the messenger of the council, came to its door and accosting me, said, that the Executive had sent him to request me to go up to the council chamber. We alighted, and I went to that apartment. I found the Governor and Council were in session. He requested me to sit down, and then remarked that I had been appointed a Representative of the State interests in stockholder meetings of canal and road companies; that my commission was being made out, and that as a general meeting of the stockholders of the Chesapeake and Ohio canal company, was to be held on the next day, they wanted to inform me of my appointment and obtain my promise to attend in that meeting, to advocate, and if possible, to secure the acceptance of the compromise act, by that corporation. I instantly adverted to the request which I had made, that he would not nominate me; and asking to be allowed to decline the appointment, I proposed to name five or six suitable citizens of Baltimore, either of whom I felt convinced would cheerfully and satisfactorily execute the duties of that office. The Governor replied, that I had not been invited to advise as to who should be appointed, but simply that I might be informed that the appointments had been made, that my commission might be given to me, and the Executive be assured that I would proceed forthwith to Washington city, and attend that meeting—that Charles Goldsborough and Benjamin S. Forrest, were my colleagues, but that neither of them could be notified in time to act with me, unless Mr. Forrest should attend that meeting under his former appointment, which he might not do; but if he did, then he could receive his commission there, which I might bear to him. He further remarked, that the members of the council had been invited to attend a meeting of the Executive some days before, but circumstances had prevented their assembling sooner, and time was not left them, to make any change in these appointments, if any were even desirable.

This unexpected and most unwelcome call into the public service, seemed to command my acquiescence, and therefore I received commissions for Mr. Forrest and myself, gave my promise to enter at once on the duties of my appointment, rejoined my companions and proceeded to Baltimore. The next day I attended the general meeting of the Chesapeake and Ohio canal company, convened to consider the aforesaid compromise act of Maryland, and to accept the same—relying upon the modifications of its terms, by the covenants which had been previously made, between said company and the Baltimore and Ohio rail road company. Mr. Forrest was there also, and I handed his commission to him. Mr. Mercer explained the effects which the acceptance of that act by the company, as modified by said covenants, would have on its