

cutive Council of this State. He had formerly been a delegate from Montgomery county to the General Assembly. He had recently been a representative in Congress from the district composed of Montgomery and a part of Frederick county. His personal merits, and these various evidences of the respect and confidence, with which he was regarded by his constituents, and the Legislature of Maryland, gave to his pretensions in my judgment a very controlling emphasis, and determined my choice.

I happened to be at Annapolis on the 6th of said month, and being confined to my chamber, by reason of a recent dislocation of my right shoulder, the members of the Executive Council visited me; and as they were retiring I asked Mr. Washington to remain. I then adverted to the approaching election of a president to succeed Mr. Eaton, and after saying that I desired to see himself chosen to that office, I asked whether he would accept it, and allow me to regard him as a candidate, in case I should think, upon inquiry, that he could be certainly and satisfactorily elected. He promised to consider my overture, and to give me an answer before he left Annapolis; as he did, and affirmatively.

Just after Mr. Washington left my room, Governor Thomas called to see me, and in the course of our interview, referring to the approaching election of a president of the Chesapeake and Ohio canal company, he said to me, with that delicacy of manner and perfect propriety which uniformly marked his conduct towards me, 'that if I had determined for whom I should vote to fill that office, and felt entirely willing to mention the person, he would be pleased to know his name; but that unless I had made such determination, he wished me not to converse on the subject, as he preferred to leave the matter wholly to my own judgment: and that he likewise wished me not to mention the name of the person whom I might have determined to support, unless I preferred to speak unreservedly upon the subject.' I told the Governor, frankly, that I had determined to advocate the election of Mr. Washington, repeating the reasons above mentioned, as indicating the expediency of that choice, and as making it manifest that the company must henceforth rely, exclusively for aid on the State of Maryland. He remarked, 'that I could scarcely imagine with what pleasure he had listened to this communication of my purpose, and the reasons which had determined my choice. He had heard with delight all that I had uttered—not only because he approved of my determination, but also because my action would signally rebuke several individuals, who had already predicted that I would oppose the election of Mr. Washington, because he had disapproved of my course as one of the representatives of Maryland, when Mr. Eaton was chosen successor to Mr. Mercer; and who had also complained freely on that and other accounts, about his having nominated me to be such representative; men, however, about whose opinions he felt ordinarily indifferent, because they preferred to complain, and who seemed to have resolved to misrepresent both of us.' I replied, that to the