

spirit in friendly and confidential intercourse. This bereavement imposed upon me, public duties from the due execution of which I did not feel myself at liberty to retire, and I am sure that the indulgence and kindness of my countrymen will extend to me every allowance which so unexpected an occurrence demands.

A communication was made from this department to the last general assembly, enclosing copies of a letter from the President of the United States, and of a report to him by the then secretary of war, in answer to an application which had been made for the appointment of one or more of the United States engineers, to make a survey of the coast between Cape Charles and Lewistown creek, on the bay of Delaware. These documents were regarded as such an explicit refusal, on the part of the president, to comply with the request of the general assembly, and the refusal was placed upon such grounds, as to destroy all rational hope of obtaining any aid from the national government, for the time being, in promoting the object of the general assembly. But, notwithstanding the refusal was made upon the constitutional ground that the improvement suggested, could not be regarded "as of a character to demand the attention of the national government," yet in a few weeks afterwards, the secretary of war by instruction of the President, said, that "after the service of the year provided for by congress, shall be arranged and agreed on, an engineer will, if practicable, be detailed to report to the executive of the state of Maryland to make the survey in question." A communication from general Smith, one of our senators in congress, enclosing the letter from the secretary of war, from which the above extract is made, and also a subsequent communication from the secretary of war to the late governor of this state, with a copy of the reply thereto, is herewith submitted for your consideration. They will apprise you of the manner, and of the agency by which the abandonment of the ground assumed, in the first instance, by the President was affected as well as that the tender of a compliance with the request which was afterwards made, was clogged with a condition, which, not having been anticipated and provided for, could not be accepted, and that consequently, no benefit was derived from the seemingly, favorable change in the President's views of the subject.

I have had great satisfaction in executing several resolves of the legislature, directing tributes of respect and approbation to be paid to certain gallant sons of our state, of distinguished merit in naval service.