

Of the learning or ability of the author or of his qualifications for the execution of the task he assumed, it may not become me to say much, if any thing. To the scholar and the critic, as well as to the plain, sensible and patriotic reader, who can feel the utility and importance of a faithful history of his native country, the character of the work and the fame of its author must be alike submitted; and I feel assured that the most competent judges and those, who best know the difficulties and labors of such an enterprize, will best appreciate the efforts and merits of the adventurer.

It would not seem to be very complimentary to the intelligence of the people of Maryland, at this time of day, to urge many statements in order to awaken their curiosity to the history of the first settlement of their ancestors and their early transactions here, and less so towards their enlightened representatives, who compose the General Assembly, to attempt to superadd inducements, to those which their own minds will suggest, to the attainment of an authentic history of any important period of our existence as a separate people here.

My gift to the state, if it be accepted, will not breed money for the treasury, nor will it in a jot or tittle elevate or depress the interests of any political party; but it will impart to the whole people a knowledge of their origin and of the by gone fortunes and doings of their ancestors, and may inspire them with a more patriotic attachment to the land of their birth; whilst to me it will afford the most grateful recollection that the literary labors of a very dear departed friend, a native son of Maryland—have been justly appreciated by my fellow-citizens.

I might, perhaps, with some exertion to obtain individual subscriptions and the ordinary patronage of the Legislature, have made profit by the publication of this work; but, I prefer the honor of its adoption by the state to any emolument that could be derived from invading the province of the booksellers.

Nevertheless, Sir, there is one indispensable condition to this donation, even if it should be honored with an acceptance, to wit:—that it be printed and published within two