

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 Lewis Town 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 effected, 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 the naval service.

You will herewith receive the several proposals for furnishing the necessary stationary for the use of the Executive and Legislative Departments of the Government, for the ensuing year, which have been received by the clerk of the Council, in virtue of a resolution of the last General Assembly.

The pamphlet laws of the several States and Territories,