

Maryland State Department.
Annapolis November 2nd 1848.

G. B. Fay Esq. Principal of the Pennsylvania
Institution for the Instruction of the Blind

Sir

You will please admit into the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind as a pupil of the State of Maryland for the period of Five Years or until otherwise ordered, John S. Jones and indigent blind boy, a native of Worcester County.

Very respectfully

Your obdt. servt.

Philip F. Thomas.

State Department.

Annapolis 20th October 1848.

Sir,

I have the honor, herewith to transmit the enclosed preamble and resolutions passed unanimously by the General Assembly at its last session, tendering the thanks of the State for the generous and patriotic interest manifested by you in the restoration of the public credit, at a time when Maryland in common with many other of the states of the Union, yielding to the weight of her financial embarrassments was compelled, temporarily, to suspend payment upon both her foreign and domestic debt: and more especially, for your disinterestedness in relinquishing all claim to compensation for services rendered, and to which upon every principle of law and justice you were fairly entitled.

Instances of such devotion on the part of a citizen to the public welfare, are of rare occurrence and merit the highest distinction which a commonwealth can bestow. To one whose actions are the result of impulses so noble and self-sacrificing, next to the approval of his own conscience, no homage can be more acceptable than the meed of a people's gratitude, no recompense so grateful as the assurance of the complete realization of those objects and ends, whose attainment has been regarded as of higher value than mere personal convenience or pecuniary consideration.

The legislature, in the passage of these resolutions, has not misconceived the sentiments of its constituents. The people of Maryland are proverbially magnanimous and patriotic, sensitively alive to whatever concerns their private or public honor, and profoundly grateful to all, by whom, either the one or the other has been vindicated and sustained. Exempt, as they had always been, except for a single year and for a limited amount, from direct contributions to the Treasury and unexpecting overwhelmed with an enormous debt, it is not wonderful that dangers and difficulties should have been encountered both in maturing and enforcing the necessarily complex details of any system of taxation at all adequate to meet the annually accruing interest and ultimately, to extinguish the principal of her public obligations.

The work of restoring the credit of Maryland, beset as it was with embarrassments and unaided by the light of experience, was, nevertheless,