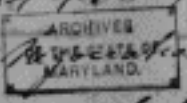


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63

A few Days since, I received a Letter from Messrs^r
 N. & J. Van Staphorst Merchants at Amsterdam,
 relative to a certain Contract concluded between
 them and Mr. Ridley, in Quality of Agent of the State
 of Maryland, by whom he was furnished with full Power
 to form such Engagements as he should think advan-
 geous to the above State. It was in consequence of this
 that a Contract was signed at Amsterdam the 31. of July
 1702, between the said Messrs^r Van Staphorst & Ridley, by
 which the State of Maryland engaged itself to reimburse
 annually 1000 fl , of Int. before issuing to reimburse
 the Interest of a  made by the said Messrs^r
 Van Staphorst on Account of the State of Maryland;
 But as their Article of Contract did not appear to have
 been yet ratified on the part of the said State, and as
 the above mentioned Merchants experienced considerable
 Loss by their Delay, and further, as the one hitherto has
 sought to pay Attention to the contracted Remittance
 made on their Subject, especially in a Memorial presented
 on their Behalf to the Assembly of the State of Maryland
 the 20th of September of the Current Year, they have
 addressed themselves to me, desiring me to assist them
 with my good Offices, by endeavoring to expedite the
business