is liable and he is in like manner entitled to continue to officiate in the Church, and to hold occupy and possess the Church, Parsonage and all the other property of the Parish (signed)

Joseph T. Merrick

Mar 19. 1840.

March 23. 1840. To the Vestry of St. Johns Parish Hagers Town.

Gentlemen

Having heard that certain resolutions were about to be offered to your consideration in which I am personally interested, I hope at this crisis I will not be thought a breach of decorum when I declare that I feel constrained in justice to myself and for the benefit of my Successor to ascertain and maintain the rights & privileges that secured to me by the laws of the State and the canons of the Church though I have too much self respect to remain longer than necessary in a place where my services are not appreciated — In the meantime I cannot & will not submit to any illegal proceedings

Respectfully yours &c

John Wiley Rector

The Vestry then adjourned to meet at the Parsonage on the first Monday in April next but upon notice given by the Rector the Vestry met at the Parsonage on Monday the 30 Instant. Present David G. Yost. A. Williams. Geo Beatty Thomas Schnebly and Fred Orsy —

On motion made & seconded David G. Yost was appointed President Protem & took the Chair

A Communication was received from the Revd W. Wiley which was read, and ordered to be entered upon Books of the Vestry

To the Vestry of Saint Johns Parish Hagers Town

Gentlemen. I was handed a resolution by your direction a copy of your proceedings of the 24 Instant —

I cannot so far forget the respect which I owe to the Body of which I am a member as to accede to the propositions therein set forth or in any manner to sanction proceedings at war with & behind with the Law of the land the Canons of the Church and the proprieties and feelings of society

Therefore I have thought proper, that a regular and authorized meeting of the Vestry should be held in time to receive this my answer, so that you may do whatever