Sir Bell Tavern Feby 8. 1790 –

I understand that your Lady & the Council are waiting upon the Order for my Salary as Judge of the Court of Admiralty whether or not the Office is superseded by the Federal Govmt. – Sir as this a Question of some magnitude, no Lap than upon the Construction of the Fed: & State Constitutions – I trust it will not therefore be considered as improper in me to offer ~~a memorial~~ an Observation or two in support of my claim 1st I consider the Appointment as grounded upon our State Constitution & until that is repealed the Office must continue in full force perhaps it may be thought that the Fed: Govmt has repealed it – so far as the Cases assumed by that Constitution but taking this for granted (which by their Judiciary Law is not to be inferred) yet there are cases in which the State Court must have an exclusive Jurisdiction Viz Seizures made under Impost Laws of the State (that the State has ~~such~~ the power of regulating their Ports the Ved: F. Const.) Held in the Case of Ida Moss Wager (If the State has any Sovereignty left) – the Admiralty Judge holds authority has a concurrent Jurisdiction – Fed. Judge – I am expecting from information that the Council will decide on this Question today, I have not time to enlarge upon the Subject – I am Sir Your Ladyps most Obt Servt

B Nicholson

ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND