at present, the Engagement itself, which was quite explicit in its Language, made no Distinction between this & the other Claims upon the Stock, altho this Claim had been previously made the Subject of a Memorial to the Crown, & was consequently known to exist, — that no such Distinction had been intimated to me, until now that the Stock had, thro my Means, been placed irrevocably in the power of the Crown, — and that if any such Distinction had been intimated to me, I perseverd in, I should not have acted as I had done, but should have left the Business as I found it. —

Mr. Hammond, to the last, appeared to be extremely anxious that, as I would not consent to any Arrangement in favor of these Claimants, the whole affair should stand over, in order that the Government of Maryland might consider whether it would agree that they should be provided for. — On my part I protested in the strongest Terms against any other Delay than such as the Situation of the Government, (to which Mr. Hammond had himself alluded,) might render necessary; and I expressed my entire Confidence, that when the Matter could be taken up by Government, (as it was really obvious it could not be at the present Moment,) such an Idea

(would)