He saw the impropriety of your being a Candidate where there was only a chance of success.

You really give me much more Credit than I deserve, on the occasion already alluded to. Feeling as I did, it would have been unpardonable had I acted differently, even if I had been a Stranger to you — It is however impolitic to compliment so much — For believe me Sir, a thousand such things would not balance in my mind, the obligations which I am under to you, for your Politeness & Friendship when I first came to the State. And for the particular attention with which you have honored me since. Should I have occasion for your Good opinion, I will most cheerfully call upon your Friendship — and I beg you will command me in any little Services in my power to render you in Annapolis. I am Dear Sir with every Sentiment of Respect & esteem. Yr. most Obliged ~~Sr~~ mo Obed Serv.

Ben Hoddert

MdHS 1974 [622-984]