Dear Sir

Richmond Jan. 9th 1785

I have now the pleasure of confirming the expectations

brought in my last concerning the result of the measures which have
been favoured with your patronage. The Bill for opening the Potomac
was passed precisely as I transmitted from Maryland, with
the last clause in the latter being rendered absolute by a clause in
the former which enacts the latter for fifty shares in the company.

Before the receipt of your despatches, some progress had been made
in enabling James River founded on different principles: after the
receipt of yours, the Bill was exchanged for one on the Potomac.

Principle, which has just been passed into a Law with the same rapidity of

unanimity which attended the other. The circumstances are

will respect to James River are: 1. That the Bill be carried at on the

annuities are: 1. A first annuity of 500,000 Dollars, only 2. There are

and the number of both above at 250 Dollars 3. The shares are divided into two.

granted in Potomac. 3. In case the value at this place, the grant

to be paid shall be first opened, the company are permitted to receive them immediately, and to continue to do so until the

capita of ten years, within which period all the works are to be com-

pleted under the same penalties as in the case in the case of the

other Rivers. 4. A pre-emption is reserved to the public on all sales

and transfers of shares. We endeavor to preserve an equal pro-

portions to the interests of the two Rivers, and to regulate the

sale in the two Bills on such a measure as to allow the member

of each Company to participate in the business of the other.

The accident having however and the length of the Bills may have

produced

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produced inaccuracies in these as well as in other respects.

The Assembly have likewise taken several similar measures in the form of resolutions, of which copies are herewith inclosed. [No further text is legible.]

It is meant to carry into effect an idea suggested in your letter to the late Governor Vansandt in conversations with which commercial laws were connected during your visit to Richmond. I had hoped to have the receipt of your report from Annapolis. I observed in my last that the subject of it ought to have made a part of your negotiations with Maryland, and mentioned the circumstances which prevented it. I regret the omission the more, as the task devolved on gentlemen to a notification of those appointments and object, as soon as information has yet been communicated to the Governor of Maryland, and was committed it may be presumed is at all altogetherpalatable to that State. Taking a more candid supposition, that the silence of the letter of the object of some suspicion, the delay in the necessity of a separate representation to Pennsylvania, are inconveniences still to be repaired. As this goes by Col. Skerren he means to pay his respects to Dr. Rush on his way to Trenton, I hope to communicate further communications from he can more fully make, and beg leave to subscribe myself with all possible respect and regard.

Yr. Obid. Servt.

J. Madison Jr.