

Letter from Governor Bowie.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

Annapolis, Feb. 4, 1870. }

Editors of the Sun: In your issue of Wednesday, last, in an editorial upon "The State of Maryland and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company," there occurs this language:

"From the time the company failed to comply with its obligations to the State it was in the power of the Governor to proceed by suit to collect the money withheld. Why, with his decided convictions as to the rights and duty of the State in the premises, the Governor did not adopt this course, we confess we do not quite understand."

As this is the second time you have referred to my official course in this matter in almost exactly the same terms, and as there is an evident innuendo implied, I do not choose longer to have my motives misinterpreted. I therefore desire to say the reason "why" I did not act in the premises sooner, although probably not in the way indicated by "The Sun," and preferred by "The Sun" and the Baltimore and Ohio Company, was that I was not aware of the failure of the company to pay this money to the State until shortly before my letter of the 4th of November to Mr. Garrett demanding the payment, and unanswered until about the 20th of December, a few days before the meeting of the Legislature, when, for the first time, Mr. Garrett indicated to me his refusal to pay.

"Why" I was not aware of it was because the failure of the company to pay had not been communicated to me by either the Comptroller or State Treasurer.

"Why," unless informed by these officers, I could have been any more aware of it than "The Sun," which did the printing for and is the recognized organ of this company; and "why" The Sun should have been so silent so long upon this important matter until I had brought it to the attention of the Legislature probably "The Sun" can tell.

In further vindication of myself, I will add that this failure of the company to pay these dues to the State had occurred more than six months before Governor Swann, my predecessor, had retired from office, and I have Governor Swann's assurance also that such failure had not been communicated to him.

I intend no reflection upon the course of these officers, and it should be remembered that Col. Leonard, the comptroller, himself addressed a letter upon the subject to Mr. Garrett six months or so before he informed me of the facts, which to this day remains unanswered or unnoticed. I have alluded to it merely to vindicate myself against the insinuations of a paper which has sought to assail my motives and acts in every matter connected with this controversy, and once at least used language capable of such construction as to cause the press of Baltimore to resent it as improper and untrue. Respectfully,

ODEN BOWIE.