

wise would have used the cars of the Rail Road company. If the Board of Directors possessed authority to reduce the present rate of charge this line would not have been put upon the Turnpike, and might soon be driven off; whereas there is good reason to apprehend that if the Legislature rise without conferring such authority upon the company, or, upon some other functionary, by whom it may be effectually exerted, the present competition will not only continue, but may be considerably enlarged.

I have felt it my duty, Sir, to bring these facts and observations to the attention of the House of Delegates, not for the purpose of applying for any favor for the Rail Road company, or, for any positive reduction in the rate of charge established by the Act of 1832; but to point out the loss to which the State itself is daily exposed from the want of some discretionary power, by which that charge may be adapted to temporary occasions and to the necessities of the case; confident that under a salutary exercise of a dispensing power, the business of the road and the revenue of the State might be greatly increased. In performing this duty, I can have no possible motive, but to render the work with which I am connected, more beneficial to the public and more profitable to the State, and having frankly discharged the duty, which in my position I could not with propriety shun, I cheerfully leave the responsibility of the whole subject to the superior wisdom of the Legislature.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

With high respect, your obedient servant,

**LOUIS McLANE,**

President.