

Message This passage of the report conveys the idea that I had sought information of the affairs of the company through secret and improper means; and the remark of Mr. Malone is calculated to make the impression, that the company was not apprised of my enquiries, or that they were made through some irregular channel. It will be seen that every fact, stated in my message, in relation to the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company, was furnished by the President and Directors, in answer to my enquiries, addressed to the Directors on the part of the State. I wished to ascertain the condition of all the companies so far as the State was concerned, that I might communicate information to the Legislature. I had received a communication from the President of the canal company, informing me that a full report would be made of its affairs, in conformity with an order of the board of Directors. On the 9th of December, I made enquiries in writing respecting certain proceedings of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company of which I did not expect an explanation in its annual report. The State directors informed me in their answer of the 21st of December, that "having stated the nature of the enquiries to the board, at their meeting of the 10th of December last, they passed a resolution requesting the President to furnish the State directors with the requisite information."

The answer then communicates the information required and explains the views of the board of Directors in relation to all the matters that were made the subject of my enquiries. I understood that some exception was taken at the meeting of the board to the course I had pursued in directing my communication to the State directors, instead of the President and Directors. I certainly had no reason to doubt the disposition of the company to give me all the information that was required; but as I had no right to ask the President for an explanation of the proceedings of the board, I considered that the proper course was to apply to the State directors. In a letter to Mr. Hawkins, the first named of the State directors, inquiring about the increased revenues of the rail Road, I stated that it would give me pleasure to receive any other information which the company might think proper to give. The answer of the State directors prepared by the officers of the company, and all the papers accompanying it, and the copies of the two letters from Mr. Malone to the Treasurer, to which this communication refers, will be sent to the House of Delegates, to show that I have not made statements to the Legislature without first ascertaining the facts.

Signed

Wm. Sprason

January 29th

Message The Governor sent to the House of Delegates at their request his correspondence with General Otto St. Mollanus and others relating to the notes on the line of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal during the last year.

Writs of Election for Howard County for the election of a Sheriff for Howard District of that county in the following words.

State of Maryland
To Walter Charles C. Redgely, John Forest and Seth W. Waples
Judges of election of the fifth election district of Anne Arundel County.

Whereas it is pro-