

Map  
Pardon  
of bonds  
Notes

of the pardoning power has been committed, under the influence of persons whose names have been concealed from the public, it could not withhold any of the petitions, letters, or communications, received in behalf of the prisoners, without exciting the suspicion, that some notorious individuals had been screened from public censure.

In speaking of the efforts to produce excitement on this subject, I must notice the report of the general committee of the Stockholders of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, presented on the 21<sup>st</sup> July last, and signed by Mr. Clement Cox of the District of Columbia. This gentleman in his character of chairman of that committee, makes the following remarks in relation to these pardons.

"The committee were gratified to find, that the line has been happily relieved from those scenes of riot and violence that have heretofore at times prevailed upon it. In this connexion however they feel constrained to advert to what they apprehend may prove an act of ill advised clemency on the part of the Governor of Maryland, under the influence as they have no doubt of imposition as to the merits, in relieving the ringleaders in those scenes of disorder, from the sentences of the law, for their offences."

"The act of pardon, so far as the committee could discover appeared to be unauthorised by the sense of the community that had been outraged, or of the judicial officers of the State, concerned in the punishment."

The committee would suggest to the Board the propriety of endeavoring to provide against any future imposition on the Governor of a like character, to the probable prejudice of the peace and order of the canal, by a respectful request to be made on any application for pardons in such cases."

Of course some anxiety was felt in alleging to expose the authors of this imposition, and accordingly on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August last, a letter was addressed to the Secretary of State by Mr. Hanson B. Piquem, requesting "copies of any and every petition or any other paper presented to his Excellency Governor Mason, in behalf of John Atwell and others, canal rioters, who were simultaneously convicted by our Court, sent to the Penitentiary, and pardoned by his Excellency. Will you please copy, or have copied said petitions and papers in full, including of course the names of the petitioners."

Mr. Piquem's request was refused by Mr. McLean, in the following words.