

procured by you in making your requisitions for advances for this work, when I replied that the requisitions could be made in any form you pleased. Upon further reflection upon the subject I thought it would be better to adopt some form of requisitions more particular than the one used by you & my letter was solely designed to suggest such a form for your future government.

I do not desire that you should when you make a requisition for funds, state the amount of work done & materials furnished to that period, but my desire is that you should state in the requisitions that the value of the work done & materials furnished to such period will entitle the contractor to receive the amount you desire to be paid to him. In making your requisitions, you will take care to conform to the understanding had with Mr. Severus that prior to the completion of the work he is only to receive within twenty per cent of the value of his work & materials furnished.

Yours resp^t & in haste
Thos. G. Pratt

To John C. Gittings Esq.
Comm: Loans

Executive Department
September 14th 1846

Sir

You are aware that a portion of the debt of the State of Maryland was incurred by the loan of her bonds to the Chesapeake & Tide Water Canal Companies, amounting to one million of dollars bearing an interest of five per cent payable in London.

For this debt the State holds the bonds of those Companies which is a preferred debt against them.

The State also holds as a preferred debt the bonds of those Companies for \$192,500 given by them for arrears of interest due to the State on those bonds on the original bonds. There is also due to the State on those bonds a part of the interest for 1845 & the interest for 1846 making the claim of the State against those Companies to the 12th of January 1847 about \$1,275,000 if no further payment is made.

I have it in contemplation to recommend to the Legislature to authorize the exchange of the liabilities of those Companies held by the State for State bonds; provided an exchange could be effected by which the bonds of the State to an equal or greater amount and bearing an equal or greater rate interest would be procured.

My object in now addressing you upon this subject is to request, that you will ascertain whether such an arrangement could be effected if the authority should be given by the next Legislature.

With great resp^t
Your obt^s Serv^t
Thos. G. Pratt