

State Department
Annapolis Md
10th November 1850

Dear Sir:

It has not been in my power since the receipt of your letter of the 4th of October last to arrive at a definite conclusion upon the subject to which it refers until within a few days past. In consequence of the very great doubt resting upon my mind whether the act of the last session of the Legislature, for the education of the blind, in consequence of the absence of proper information on the part of those by whom it was reported instead of enlarging the facilities now intended, did not absolutely abolish the whole system I determined to submit the matter to the confidence of counsel with a view to obtain a legal opinion. Accordingly at my request Mr. Nelson has within a few days past furnished me with his opinion a copy of which I herewith send you, from which you will perceive that my doubts upon the subject have been confirmed and that all the benefits intended to be secured to the blind, are in consequence of the act of the last session, entirely withdrawn, the funds appropriated to the purpose having been long since expended.

It is therefore out of my power to increase the number of pupils at the institution and those already there can only be maintained and educated by a resort to the contingent fund.

I am very respectfully
your obt. servt
Philip F. Thomas

A. Colburn Esquire
Baltimore

State Department
Annapolis 16th November 1850

My dear Sir:

In the course of the last conversation which I had the pleasure to hold with you I think you told me that your Company would be able to pay into the Treasury of the State within the present fiscal year at least one hundred thousand dollars of the interest annually accruing. Thus far seventy thousand dollars have been received and as the year is soon to expire I write for the purpose of enquiring of you at what period we may expect an additional payment and what will certainly be its amount.

I will be under obligations to you for as early a reply as your convenience will allow.

I am with great respect
your obt. servt
Philip F. Thomas

Robert M. Nagaw Esquire
Pres. of Balt. & An.
Rail Road Co. }