

*Copy of Mr. McLane's Letter of 7th Nov. 1839.*

BALTIMORE, Nov. 7, 1839.

To GEORGE MACKUBIN, Esq.

*Dear Sir,*

I only reached this city to-day, and if I had not expected to be here earlier, I should have written to you from New York.

After the date of my letter by the steamer Liverpool, the difficulty of placing the Maryland bonds at prices which, from a just regard to the credit of the state, I could consent to take, became greater, and, indeed, sales at any price, except in small quantities, became impossible. Mr. Peabody had been compelled to sell a small amount at 80, and was understood to be willing to take less; and some of the bonds which the canal company had sent forward to cover certain bill drawn upon Mr. Peabody, but which he had not accepted, had been offered at less. Under all circumstances I declined selling the bonds of the Rail Road Company at these low prices, preferring to place them in the hands of some competent House, to be sold as favorable opportunities may offer, and to obtain as large advances as possible in anticipation of sales. The Messrs. Browns would have undertaken the agency to sell, but declined stipulating for any advances whatever, even at remote dates, and I ultimately succeeded in making an arrangement with the House of Messrs. Baring, Brothers & Co., who have also agreed to make such advances, in anticipation of sales, as I hope will ensure the moderate and steady prosecution of the work with which I am connected. I did not understand, however, that your instructions authorized me to enter into stipulations for advances upon the bonds by you committed to my charge, nor did I suppose that you intended I should take for those bonds a less price than I would be willing to accept for my own; I therefore deposited the bonds issued in your name with Messrs. Baring, Brothers & Co., subject to your order, and have the honor to enclose you their letter to that effect.

I think it proper also to state that, in the present condition of the foreign market, American securities can only be placed gradually, and in small amounts, and that it would not have been possible to have sold the bonds received from you at any price. I am sorry to say, too, that from the situation in which the bonds sent forward by the canal company have been put, it is seriously to be apprehended that these bonds will yet be sold at even lower prices than have yet been quoted; but until the necessities of the work with which I am connected are more urgent than they have been, I cannot consent to assist in placing the credit of the state abroad so low.

I have the honor to be, dear sir,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

LOUIS McLANE.