

COMMUNICATION.

Office of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company,
January 31st, 1840.

To John Thomson Mason, Esq. &c. &c.

Sir,—I duly received your letter of the 23d instant, informing me that you had been “instructed by the Committee on Internal Improvements” to report to you, that in pursuance of an order this day adopted by the House of Delegates, the committee have had under consideration so much of your report as relates to the proposed increase of toll for the transportation of flour upon the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road, they have instructed me to request you to transmit to the committee fully the wishes of the company on this point, that you would state what increase in the tolls upon Flour is desired, and what are the probable and usual rates of charges upon *Flour* by other rail road companies of this State and elsewhere.”

Pursuant to the request contained in your letter, I have the honor to transmit herewith,

1. A letter from *Jonathan Knight*, chief Engineer of the company, (marked A,) exhibiting an estimate of the cost of transporting flour, and containing other valuable information upon the subject embraced in your letter.

2. A statement marked B, shewing the rates charged upon other rail roads.

3. A paper marked C, containing a draft of a law, comprehending all the enactments which the company at present desire upon this subject; with notes explanatory of the existing laws, and of the alterations which it is believed are judicious, and only just to the company.

It may not be improper for me to remark that by the charter, chapter 123, passed February 28th, 1827, section 18, the company was authorised to charge on all goods, produce, merchandize, or property of any description whatsoever, transported from *west* to *east*, not exceeding one cent a ton per mile for *toll*, and three cents a ton per mile for transportation.

By an act, chapter 261, passed March 13th, 1837, section 1, the charge on goods, &c. was increased to 8 cents, with the exception however of *flour*, grain, corn oats, *tobacco*, whiskey, coal, iron, lime, ore, lumber, plaster, stone and wood, fish and salt; and