

satisfactory, the last, and to the board and myself the most important, remained for consideration.

In my reflections upon this subject, it was impossible I should be unmindful of the over estimate which the board have been pleased to make of my ability to serve them; and, if I supposed that more could be expected of me than diligently and faithfully to second the effort of the directors and others, to make available and apply the various resources upon which the success of the work must ultimately depend, that, of itself, would have deterred me from the task. I am led to consider, however, that the expectations of the board will be satisfied by a faithful employment of my best faculties in the service of the company; and though our mutual labors may be arduous, the enterprise, itself, is so full of benefit to the country at large, and prefers such cogent appeals to the vital interests of the enlightened communities with which it is more immediately connected, as to warrant even greater hazard than, I hope, can attend its completion.

Confiding, therefore, in the various resources, as explained by the committee, and in the hope that they may reasonably be made available; in the peculiar importance of the work to the State of Maryland and the city of Baltimore, and in the wise liberality of these authorities; and relying upon the known ability of those with whom I am to be associated in our various duties, and upon the generous support which we have a right to expect from the stockholders and others not less interested, I have the pleasure to inform you that I accept the office to which the board have been pleased to elect me.

At present, it is impossible for me to say at what precise time it will be in my power finally to quit my post here; but, as soon as the necessary arrangements for that purpose can be made, I will repair to Baltimore, and enter upon my duties there. Meantime I will take an early opportunity of meeting the board for the purpose of consultation upon some points which appear to me to require prompt attention.

I remain, Gentlemen,

With sincere regard,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

LOUIS McLANE.

To Messrs. Patterson, Swan and Latrobe, Committee, &c.